

The Sumpter Miner

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Lawson's October installment of "Frenzied Finance" bristles with bluffs. If he makes good, some mighty interesting reading matter is in store for the American public. But he is a long time getting to the meat of his story. The current chapter roasts "Gas" Addicks, but he doesn't say anything meaner about that notorious scamp than has been said hundred times before, and said much better. If he doesn't present his case soon, those who are reading his stuff with much impatient interest will believe that he is faking.

J. G. Bigelow, of Milwaukee, in a speech before the American Bankers association, held last week in New York, expressed the belief that the powerful combinations of capital usually designated as trusts, will in future prevent widespread financial panics, such as those of 1873 and 1893. Bigelow is either conversing through his new silk hat, or else is making a "con talk," with the deliberate purpose to deceive.

This disastrous business depression of '93 was designated then and is believed today to have been a "bankers panic," brought about by a powerful money trust for the purpose of making a clean up; a foreclosure on securities held as collateral for loans. The same interests will turn the same trick again, if the opportunity presents itself, as it will periodically under our present financial system. The only preventive for these panics is for the government—not bankers—to issue sufficient legal tender money on which to transact the business of this country, which would prevent bankers from working a corner on currency. The government can never issue enough legal tender for this purpose so long as it is based on gold alone. And that brings us back to the old, original proposition, which can not be touched upon here—for the silver question is said to be dead and self constituted authorities have issued the edict that it is bad form to discuss that subject in good society.

Vast amusement has been caused by the publication of an "open confession" by the editor of a monthly paper posing as a financial authority. The periodical has been freely circulated outside of New York since last June and recently was barred from the mails. Postal inspectors were unable to find the place of publication to learn who was responsible for the paper. The business address was found to be a livery stable in Washington and the paper is supposed to have been printed here.

In the confession the editor says that having held his position three months and being about to retire, his conscience implied him to state: "I have been in charge of this publication in the interest of one of the most desperate gangs of swindlers and thieves that has ever infested any country. Outside of this statement no word of truth has ever appeared in these columns.

"Upright and honest business men, as well as straightforward and prosperous corporations, have been maliciously attacked with the sole idea that money might be influenced from them to the coffers of the gang that has given me employment.

"Some of those who have been attacked have been ruined thereby and many thousands of dollars have been lost by small investors as a result."

The editor further declares the firms he recommended were fraudulent and country people were thereby defrauded of thousands of dollars.

Just why this incident should cause "vast amazement" is a puzzle. Thousands of "newspapers" exist solely upon such grafts as that to which the New York editor confesses. Hundreds of so-called financial papers—the higher in rating the better—blackmail the public by insisting upon paid advertisements in return for editorial endorsement. Particularly among mining journals is this sort of thing common. Not all mining journals follow this line of "business," but scores of publications, printed in the outward form and garb of legitimate class journals, are in reality published by firms of promoters wherein the boldest lies are printed, and wherein the editors, like the self-confessed swindler of New York, prostitute his talents and lies as well as steals.

"Vast amazement" may be created by the fact that these things are so, but "vast amazement" were a heap better now than a rifled pocketbook later on.

A tramp barber struck Goldfield, Nevada, the other day, looking as seedy as a genuine hobo. A week later he was noticed to be well dressed and sporting a gold-headed cane. Asked how he did it, he replied that he had saved the trimmings from the miner's hair and found enough loose gold in them to give him his outfit.

A curious find was made on the top of the dies of the ten stamp mill of the Climax Gold Mining company, Arizona, when a stop was made for repairs. Several flattened pieces of gold, weighing over an ounce, were discovered adhering to the face of the dies. In some manner the particles of gold got an anchor on the die, and continual pounding and twisting of the shoes added to their bulk. They were curious looking nuggets and will be kept as specimens.

COUPLE OF SUMPTER BOOSTERS ABROAD

Now, here is a couple of specimens of the right kind of stuff. Two citizens of Sumpter were in Baker City last night and both of them kindly submitted to interviews; both told the truth and said that this mining district is all right, all right. This kind of talk is to be commended; the other kind deserves tar and feathers. The Democrat says:

Mr. James H. Howard, of the First National Bank of Sumpter, and manager of the Golconda mine, who arrived in the city yesterday, had the pleasant news to impart to a reporter that business in upper camps is improving on a substantial basis and that several merchants are doubling their stocks of goods. Mining all through the various districts has

been and is in a healthy condition. The properties that have been in litigation and under process of re-organization, will soon be in operation again, while the old producers are steadily sending in to the mint their gold bullion.

"The new smelter at Sumpter which blew in its furnaces about a week ago, is running day and night on fine ore, and has ore contracted ahead for several months. That one plant is a big thing for Sumpter alone. The extension of the Sumpter Valley railway is another actor in the advancement of our country. Cheap transportation will bring the ores at a lively rate, and when you get a railroad through to the Seven Devils, look out for big things. I am glad to learn there is a prospect of building in the near future."

"The pay rolls in the upper camp are much larger than we get credit for," said W. C. Calder, the Sumpter real estate and mining man, who arrived in Baker City yesterday with several members of an eastern syndicate, whom he brought with him from the east several weeks ago.

"You can understand I have been very busy during the last five weeks, having been in my office only one or two evenings, after an absence in the east of five months. We have spent all of our time in the hills, have enjoyed the time and have done some business. Mr. Henry L. Cameron, of Albany, New York, who is with me and who is returning east tonight, is the head of the syndicate that is making investments in the upper camps. We visited the Greenhorn, Susanville, Quartzburg, Bourne and Cable Cove districts. They made several investments in valuable mining properties and made the first payment in cash. For prudential reasons it is not best to state now just what those properties are. They also purchased several blocks of fine yellow pine timber lands in the Sumpter district. Within the next week or ten days I expect to return east, where I will spend the winter. You can add that the Sumpter mining camps are growing and that general business is on the improve."

AMERICAN MINERS IN THE ORIENT

N. Harry Whittlesey, for three years the cyanide mill manager of the Oriental Consolidated Mining company, at Wonsan, Korea, which properties figured in the early stage of the present Russian-Japanese war, has given out an interview regarding the properties on his return to his home at Spokane.

"The Oriental Consolidated Mining company," said Mr. Whittlesey, "is the company which owns the concessions granted by the Korean government to Leigh Hunt. There were three concessions issued about the same time—to a German, an Englishman and an American—Mr. Hunt's company, and the American is the only one that has reached the period of successful operation."

"The company is operating five American-made stamp mills, scattered over 250 square miles of territory, in which are 200 stamps, twenty additional stamps being added to one of the mills.

"The cyanide plant I was in charge of was located near two stamp mills, one of forty, the other of eighty stamps, the concentrates of both mills being treated at the

cyanide works, which has a capacity of eighty tons each twenty-four hours.

"All the superintendents and foremen in the mines and mills are Americans, the miners and laborers about the mills being Chinese and Koreans, a few Japanese being employed in semi-skilled labor, as blacksmiths, carpenters, timbermen and like employments. The wages of miners and laborers are twenty-five cents a day, being about double the wages paid in ordinary work conducted by Koreans or Japanese.

"American methods prevail in all departments of mining and milling, except machine drills are not used in the mines, experience having shown that drilling by hand is cheaper.

"Generally the mines are large fissure veins in granite, the vein filling being of quartz, carrying some native gold, the larger portion of the gold values being combined with the base metals—iron, lead and zinc. Frue vanners are used in the mills for concentration, and the concentrates are easily amenable to the ordinary cyanide process, the precipitation being effected with zinc shavings.

"The veins are wide, from ten to twenty-five feet, and the ore carries an average of \$5 a ton in gold. The working costs of mining and milling are about \$2.50 a ton, leaving a very satisfactory profit, and as the company mines and mills upward of 20,000 tons of ore each month, the earning capacity of the property is very large.

"A depth of 1,000 feet has been reached in one of the mines. The general manager of the company is George W. Perkins, of New York, the resident manager being H. F. Meserve.

"Up to the time that Mr. Hunt commenced the development of the properties embraced within his concession, about six years ago, the Koreans were totally ignorant of modern mining methods, their own being unique, but effective. The mines in the district where I was located had been worked by the Koreans for fifty years or more, and I was able to observe their methods.

"They chiefly used an iron bar and wedges, or gad, in extracting the ore. The higher grade portions of the ore were then selected and placed on a large flat rock, upon which was a large granite boulder. To the sides of the boulder poles were fastened, the ends of which would be grasped by the operators, who would rock the boulder over the ore, thus reducing it to pulp to pass through a thirty-mesh screen. This pulp would then be pounded by hand in large wooden bowls. The concentrates would also be saved and re-ground between two flat stones and again panned, by which means a large percentage of the gold would be saved.

"The mountains in the country where the mines are located rise to a height of 1,000 to 1,200 feet and are deeply channeled by water courses. They are heavily timbered with a good quality of oak that is used for fuel and mine timbering. The climate is similar to that of eastern Washington, the winters being perhaps a little more severe."

More Columbia Machinery.

Three carloads of machinery, being equipment for the enlargement of the Columbia mill, arrived in Sumpter this morning, and is awaiting trans-shipment to the hills.

The Gold Coin (Cracker Creek) compressor is working.