

The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY
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The son of a mining operator at Cripple Creek, who was mixed up with the late unpleasantness there, has been driven out of Goldfield by Union miners and their sympathizers. The youngest and richest gold camp on earth made a mistake in permitting that kind of a play to be made. It is bad advertising, detrimental publicity, that will have its evil effect just as sure as there is a law of retribution on Nature's statute book.

The Ethel Consolidated Mining company owning properties at Index, Washington, is being thimberlegged in a reorganization deal. This stock, having been proved to be worthless, is being taken up and some other stock given in its place, provided the suckers who paid for Ethel will now pay for an equal amount of debenture bonds of the new company. Say, that hook is not concealed at all. Wonder if there is any variety of fish that will swallow it, without even a sham bait?

A new metal has been invented by Albert Nodon, a French engineer, and called "nodium" after his name, which is said to be lighter than aluminum, to have the color, luster and structure of steel, the malleability of bronze and a conductivity for the electric current equal to that of copper of the same weight. No information is given about the new metal, but it is said to be made by an electrical process at a cost of about fifteen cents per pound.

The Utah papers are attracting a great deal of attention to the splendid mineral resources of their state by systematically publishing the dividends paid by Utah mining companies. Descriptions of mining districts, however fervently written, do not have the persuasive penetration of the still small voice of a dividend. Outside of Utah the local journalists do not apparently appreciate this incontrovertible fact. It appears to us that this matter is worthy of more consideration than it has received in the past.—Mining Reporter.

Now kindly advise what local papers should do to close corporations that guard the dividend proposition with as much care as they do the skeleton in the corporation closet. So far as the effect on a district is concerned, this secrecy is as harmful as if no dividends were earned.

Some interesting statements have recently come from the Transvaal Chamber of Mines relative to the work of the Chinese laborers now employed in the mines of the Rand. Out of 1,182 men at the Van Ryn mine, 1,018 were reported working, of whom 556 were underground and 462 on the surface. On August 2 an average of fifteen inches per shift was made in drilling by 130 coolies, and on the 16th of the month the average made by 300 men was twenty-two inches, showing either an im-

provement or more favorable conditions for work. This is about one-fourth to one-fifth of what a skilled white miner would accomplish in the same time. In another mine the average was about fourteen inches, some of the men doing nearly thirty-six inches. The mine managers appear well pleased with their experiment and anticipate a material improvement in the amount of work accomplished per man when they become more experienced. In the work of mucking they make a better relative showing than in the more skilled work of drilling, but in this as well as drilling they are no match for the white miners and not even as good as Kaffirs. The labor problem appears nevertheless to have been solved by the Chinese on the Transvaal, and 5,000 more have gone in since September 15. The difficulty at first experienced with Chinese officials in recruiting seems to have been satisfactorily settled.—Mining and Scientific Press.

J. J. Hill, of the Great Northern, gave out this interview in Minneapolis a few days ago, speaking of speculating in stocks: "They had better be a little cautious. They may get bumped. Some of the railway stocks are selling for more than I would be willing to pay for them. These stocks had just as much real value six months ago as they have today and I think one ought to be a little careful about rushing in to buy them after their market prices have advanced \$2 to \$3 a share. I suppose the speculators are attracted by the facility with which they can carry four per cent stocks in a two per cent money market, but much of the money they are using in speculation is the idle money which the business interests of the country have no present use for, because of the dullness of trade."

Millions of American money are invested in Mexico. That the oldest American nation is on the eve of a revolution has been suspected for months and capital from this side of the line naturally has been nervous. Under the progressive rule of President Diaz, Americans have enjoyed commercial privileges of high value. Mexico's gold, silver and copper mines are known to be enormously rich and as long as Diaz lives they will continue to be worked largely by Americans, whose modern machinery and energetic methods have taken more from the shafts left by the Spaniards of the first invasion and by the Incas before them in ten years than the lazy peon of the isthmus had mined in the century previous. The Butte Inter-Mountain says, however, that of late slight hints thrown off the news wire, have warned the investor that Mexico is uneasy. The government has been increasing and strengthening the army. Fresh guns have been mounted in the defenses of the big cities and strategic points seized by the government. Diaz will be president, probably, so long as he lives; but Diaz may die any day.

Inside facts of Mexican conditions were given to President Roosevelt the other day by William G. Tiffany, of Nevada, who called at the White House. Mr. Tiffany is interested in Mexican gold mines. He told the president that there "is much gold in Mexico, and the prospects there would be splendid but for the miserable squabbling that will be sure to follow the death of President Diaz. As long as Diaz lives every thing will be all right, but when he dies there will come a revolution

that must establish the supremacy of one three men who are frequently mentioned for the succession to President Diaz. These are Limantour, the minister of finance, and by long odds the most polished and best educated man in public life in Mexico; General Reyes, the commander-in-chief of the army, and Governor Torres, of the state of Chihuahua, and the most ambitious Mexican of the lot. The death of General Diaz would mean an immediate fight for supremacy, and the success of the strongest and firmest band. This might be prevented by Diaz retiring now and establishing one of these men in the presidency. The better class of people in the country would approve this course, as they dread the future as it stands now. They would be willing to support any one man without quibbling if they could be assured that revolution could be postponed."

The Chamber of Commerce Bulletin is a handsomely printed publication, the official organ of the Portland chamber of commerce. Its purpose is to advertise the resources of the state and the attractions of Portland. It needs an editor with a blue pencil about the size of a pick handle. In the November issue one, J. H. Fisk, airs his views on mining, and advertises himself, which article is illustrated with the picture of the author. This man Fisk has been connected with one or two of the most notoriously rotten mining fakes which has disgraced the Northwest. Of course, in this article he insinuates that he has a monopoly of all the honesty in the business. He publishes several letters claimed to have been received from eastern investors, reflecting discreetly, by implication, on several eastern Oregon companies, by name. Here are two extracts from the article:

"Portland contains more men who are directly or indirectly interested in mining than all the rest of the states; has also more capital invested in mines than all the rest of the states put together and receives the least in return for it; and it is quite natural that they should feel an interest in this matter and should not be called 'hogs' because they do not live at the mines, as the working miners do."

"I can sell more mining stock than any other man, but I will not engage in it until I think the mine can be made a paying and profitable one."

Now, anyone at all posted on these statements knows how absurdly false they are and there is no need of going into detail refutation.

The Portland chamber of commerce ought not to send out such stuff.

Mr. George F. Kunz is authority for the statement that interest in the production of precious stones increases in the United States from year to year. In a report recently made to the United States Geological Survey he gives the value of the precious stones produced in the United States in 1903 as \$321,400. This production was a little less valuable than that of 1902, which was rated at \$328,450, but was worth considerably more than that of 1901, which was valued at \$289,050. The total value of the imports of precious stones in 1903 was \$26,522,523 as against \$24,753,586 in 1902, \$22,815,352 in 1901, and \$13,561,588 in 1900.

Mr. Kunz's report on precious stones is more attractive than usual this year, for it contains a great

amount of miscellaneous data about the precious stones of other countries as well as those of the United States. The increased interest in this country in the production of precious stones has resulted in bringing together a splendid exhibit of these beautiful products of nature at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, where thousands of visitors have seen and studied them. The valuable report is an extract from the Survey's volume entitled "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1903," but it is also published separately, in pamphlet form, and may be obtained on application to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

The long winded Methodist preacher who some weeks since played the part of "booby prize" in a contest between Arlington and Grants Pass and was "sawed off" on the latter; has now left that town, by special request.

A lake containing fresh water on top and salt water at the bottom has been discovered on Kildin Island, Lapland. The lake rises and falls with the tide, and the salt water evidently comes from the sea by an underground channel.

OFFICIAL RECORDS.

The following instruments were filed at the court house in Baker City for record yesterday:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

DEEDS.

Nov. 1, '03—W. H. Ellis to Lizzie Ellis, lot 2 block 3 Sturges & Crowell's addition to Baker City; \$1.

Oct. 29—Jno Schmit and wife to D. B. Rinehart, lots 3, 4 and 5 block 32 Pacific addition to Baker City; \$240.

Nov. 5—E. J. Fuller to T. H. Grabner, lot 1 block 6 Brattain & McComas addition to Baker City; \$1.

Oct. 29—Wisconsin Oregon Lumber company to E. Kirkham, et al, lot 4 section 7 T. 10 R. E.; \$1.

Oct. 23—W. D. Emele and wife to Wm. H. Colton, 160 acres in Sec. 35 T. 7 and Sec. 2 T. 8 R. 41 E.; \$8000.

Oct. 25—Rev. J. Heinrich to St. Francis Academy, block 2 Boyd's addition to Baker City; \$1.

Oct. 31—Jno. Schmitz, et al, lots 1, 2 and 3 block 3 Lack addition to Baker City; \$325.

Oct. 25—Jos. Palmer and wife to C. E. Wood, lots 29 to 35 block 3 Wilovale; \$1.

March 12—Jas. M. Elmer and wife to Myra M. Elmer, 36 1/2 acres in N. W. 1/4 Sec. 15 T. 9 R. 40 E.; \$1.

Oct. 29—Cynthia Hamm and husband to D. B. Rinehart, lots 1 and 2 block 32 Pacific addition to Baker City; \$200.

Oct. 29—Henry S. Parke and wife to D. B. Rinehart, lots 6 and 7 block 32 Pacific addition to Baker City; \$1,250.

Sept. 3, '01—F. W. Thomson and wife to V. E. Thompson, east 96 feet of lots 3 and 4 block B Fisher's addition to Baker City; \$2,500.

Oct. 28—Barbara Woodard and husband to H. C. Thomas, et al, 25 acres in Sec. 19 T. 7 R. 44 E.; \$1.

MINING MATTER.

DEEDS.

Dec. 9, '03—W. F. Calvert to J. M. Doyle, Bertha quartz claim; \$10.

Fine printing of the Miner office.