

OLD PIONEER IN SUMPTER

**Piloted a Pack Train From
The Dalles Over Blue
Mountains in '63.**

**Camped on the Sites Where Pendle-
ton and Baker City Now Stand
Before Either those Cities
Was Dreamed of.**

A man who piloted a pack train from the Columbia river to Boise Basin, when the west was young; who camped on the sites of the present prosperous towns of Pendleton and Baker City before a single house was built at the former place, and long before it was even vaguely imagined that the lone ranch which then marked the site of Baker City would blossom into the commercial metropolis of eastern Oregon—this man has been in Sumpter for three days, and departed this afternoon for his home in Arlington, Oregon.

His name is James M. Johns, and he is the parent of Hon. Charles A. Johns, mayor-elect of Baker City, and of Cato J. Johns, who may be the next mayor of Sumpter.

The elder Johns was one of the builders of the Northwest, an honored Oregon pioneer. He was born seventy years ago, in Ohio, removed in 1853 to Indiana, and the following year joined the exodus to Kansas, which was then a terra incognita. In 1856 he moved to Jackson county, Missouri, where he married Miss Elizabeth Anna Darby, a Kentucky, girl, who is still his loving and beloved helpmate, accompanying him on his visit to Sumpter. In 1857 the eldest son, Charles, was born in Missouri, and the year following the family started for the great Oregon country, via the Isthmus of Panama, arriving in Marion county in 1858, the year prior to the admission of Oregon to statehood. From Marion county the Johns moved to Lynn, and in later years to Gilliam. It was in 1863 that the elder Johns, after shipping a quantity of provisions and food from Portland to The Dalles by water, started with a train of forty pack animals for the mines in Boise Basin. He did not follow the beaten track of pack trains, preferring the Umatilla river route, and over the Blue mountains. While making the trip he camped where Pendleton now stands, but which at that time was an uninhabited solitude, except for coyotes and wandering Indians. After crossing the mountains he camped one night on the present site of Baker City, which was then a lone ranch, although Auburn, six miles up in the hills, was a camp of over 2,000 souls.

Mr. Johns is editor and proprietor of the Arlington Record and of the Bickleton News, across the river in Klickitat county. One of his

daughters, Mrs. John Neal, who is a pioneer of Harney and Grant counties was one time owner of the Grant County News. The journalistic temperament seems to run in the family, and it is odd that neither Charley nor Cato, both politicians and political leaders, never butted into newspaperdom.

The elder Johns and his wife returned this afternoon to Arlington.

Curious Facts About Radium.

Radium never ceases to emit energy in the form of light, and is perpetually bombarding its surroundings with minute particles of its substance, acting at the same time as a regenerative furnace, which, though without apparent apparatus for renewals, is warranted to retain its heat energy for more than 2,000 years. Professor Rutherford and Mr. Soddy offer solution of this double conundrum. They allege that the corpuscles of the radium are constantly colliding, thus developing a state of chronic friction and disruption competent to furnish the phenomenal energies of heat and motion which the radium displays. His belief, though accepted with considerable limitations by Sir W. Crookes, is repudiated as revolutionary by Lord Kelvin, who will not even entertain the idea of the disintegration theory as a working hypothesis. Noting the Curie-Rutherford estimate of the tremendous pace at which radium spits forth heat for about a year, Lord Kelvin says that if this amazing emission really lasts month after month, fresh energy must somehow be supplied from without, otherwise the calorimetric apparatus of the atoms must fall out of working order. In other words, the requisite stoking is done by the waves of the ether which bring to the furnace fresh loads of energy ad libitum. Still more conservative are the eminent M. Berthelot and his followers, who assert that the new radio-activity is possessed by almost all known bodies, and that radium, like phosphorus, receives its energy from the sun.—Exchange.

GOLD STEALING IS UNIVERSAL

The question of gold stealing in Western Australia has recently been again before the Chamber of Mines of western Australia. In a recent issue of the monthly magazine it is stated that some eighteen months ago there were fifty receivers known to the police, of whom one gentleman, whose record was disclosed, was able to dispatch through his bank about 500 ounces of smelted gold a month. The state of affairs was in fact so bad that the Police Act was amended to deal with the matter, and for the time apparently with satisfactory results. Familiarity, however, is said to be now breeding, if not contempt, at least skill, in evasion, and the Chamber is asking for more drastic penalties. At the same time difficulties are no doubt experienced in administering the law from popularity of the practice as revealed by the extent of the loss.

Western Australia is not the only field which suffers; it is a common complaint co-extensive with gold mining. Where fields differ it is within the power or good will of the

legislature and executive to curb the practice. As a rule with colored labor, as in the Transvaal, where obstacles to drastic legislation are not the same as among white miners who enjoy the franchise, the question is more easily dealt with, though in British Guiana we have been told the administration dare not interfere, and the difficulty in the case of large mines being opened would be a most serious one.

West Africa, too, does not seem to be too well situated in this respect, and the local paper bears witness to the extent of the practice on the Kolar field. In the Transvaal the leaders of the mining industry, with their Kimberley I. D. B. experience, possess perhaps the most effective legal control. Under section 148 of the present Gold Law, trading in the commodity with a native involves a maximum penalty of £1,000 fine or five years imprisonment, or both, while in the case of the colored person for the fine fifty lashes is substituted. The same penalties are provided under Section 12 of the Unwrought Precious Metals Trading Ordinance of 1903. This act further restricts the trade to licensed traders (who must pay £25 a year), bankers and claim holders as regards the produce of their own claims, under maximum penalties of £500 fine or two years imprisonment, or both for a first offense and for subsequent transgressions the same penalties as for trading with a colored person.

One important provision is that a register must be kept in which within twenty-four hours all transactions are recorded, showing parties, price, and weight of metal, under a penalty of £50 fine, or in default six months' imprisonment. It is a common feature of such legislation that the accused has to establish his innocence, and the temptation to "traps" is, of course, such that among white communities there is great reluctance to entrust the police with the arbitrary power which the executive of such measures involves. At the same time it is probably more satisfactory to all concerned than to leave it in the hands of the management to adopt a system of scrutiny and search, the effect of which in the case of the Lucknow mines will be remembered by many.

In a good many cases something might be done by acts of local application to consult public convenience without diminishing the efficiency of the control.—London Mining Journal.

Beautiful Columbia River folder.

The passenger department of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company has just issued a beautiful and costly panoramic folder entitled "The Columbia River, Through the Cascade Mountains, to the Pacific Ocean." From Arlington to Portland, and from Portland to the Pacific ocean every curve of the river and every point of interest are shown, while Mount Hood, Mount Adams, and Mount St. Helens, perpetually covered with snow, stand in all their beauty. On the back of the map is an interesting story in detail of the trip from Huntington to Portland and, from Portland to the ocean, not overlooking the beaches and the San Francisco trip by ocean. Acopy of this folder may be secured by sending four cents in stamps to pay postage to A. L. Craig, General Passenger agent for the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, Portland, Oregon. By sending the address of some friend in the east, and four cents in postage, the folder will be promptly mailed.



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