



# THE SUMPTER MINER

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## FOR REPEAL OF THE EDDY LAW

## GREAT ORE SHOOT IN THE OVERLAND

Tonight at Hotel Sumpter a mass meeting will be held under the auspices of the Sumpter district branch of the Oregon Miner's Association, to discuss with Representative-elect A. P. Smith the need of legislation affecting the mineral industry of this state.

The main object of the meeting is to inaugurate a campaign for the repeal of the Eddy corporation tax law. Representative Smith is the only member of the state legislature who follows mining as a profession. Consequently the burden of work in securing a repeal of the Eddy law, which is an obnoxious and objectionable measure, when viewed from the standpoint of the miner, mine promoter and mining stock broker, falls upon him.

Ever since election, Mr. Smith has been quietly gathering data in support of his contention that the Eddy law is a bad one, and tonight's mass meeting is to be the occasion of firing many heavy guns before the convening of the next legislative session at Salem.

It is not improbable that other legislative topics will be discussed at tonight's mass meeting. The proposed introduction at the forthcoming session of the legislature of a bill to regulate freight rates on railways operating wholly within the state, is of vital interest to the people of this camp, on account of the Sumpter Valley railway being in the class of roads to be affected by the proposed legislation. Representative Smith has shown a proper interest in this matter and has secured from merchants and business men of Sumpter signed statements relative to the popular idea of equitable freight rates. Representative Smith's evident purpose is to thoroughly sound public sentiment in the matter before announcing a definite stand. He is quoted as having said that the wishes of his constituents shall govern his actions.

The Eddy law, however, will be the main bone on which the people of Sumpter will gnaw tonight. There will probably be a whole lot of speechmaking, the air will no doubt be rent with loud walls for the life blood of the author of the measure, and ringing, howling, raging and screaming resolutions will undoubtedly be adopted.

There are barrels of argument possible of submission in favor of a

repeal of the Eddy law. That it is a bad measure—a piece of legislation rotten to the core—is the private personal opinion of every man, woman, child, horse and dog in the mining camps of this state. It is considered the rankest kind of class legislation and many able lawyers have gone so far as to assert emphatically that it is unconstitutional.

A Miner reporter asked Tom Gray for a statement of some of the reasons why the Eddy law is so objectionable. Commodore Gray said:

"If the mining industry of this part of the country is to survive, the Eddy corporation tax law must either be repealed now, or declared unconstitutional later on. It is a bad law. It strikes at an industry which is struggling out of the swaddling clothes of an infant into the habiliments of a full-grown man, and which, properly fostered, or even let alone, is destined to become the source of the greatest wealth-creation and production in Oregon.

"The plain and self-evident intent of the mining laws of United States government is to cause more and more digging to be done in the ground. The federal laws provide for the performance of \$100 worth of work on each mining claim per annum, thereby encouraging, as well as making obligatory, the development of this nation's mineral resources. Further encouragement is given to the prospector and miner by Uncle Sam, who promises that just as long as his laws are obeyed, title to any amount of mining ground, from one claim to 1,000, shall be invested in the holder without the payment to the government of one single red cent. It has been upon these solid foundation stones of liberality and encouragement on the part of our federal government that the magnificent mineral resources of this nation have been developed to their present proud position of comparative pre-eminence.

"That is the stand of the federal government with relation to fostering the mining industry. What is the stand of the state of Oregon?

"Every time I think of it I lose my temper. I feel an irresistible inclination to go down to Salem, bump up hard against those webfoot farmers and cent-per cent merchants of the Willamette valley, who have thrust this Eddy law upon us, and tell them in good, forceful, inelegant but

Frank McCarvel, foreman at the Overland, Cable Cove district, left for the property this forenoon, after a holiday visit here and at Baker City. He tried to get away yesterday, but his crew of miners hadn't finished spending their good, honest money, so he gave them one more night in which to wind up their celebration.

Some days since, The Miner learned that an important strike had been made in the Overland, and last evening went to Mr. McCarvel for authentic information on the subject. He said: "Yes, it is the best and most extensive ore body we have yet uncovered. There is not much news in the story, however, for we ran into the shoot about a month ago. We shut down the mine for the holidays on the twenty third. On that date we had drifted in pay ore for sixty feet and the face of the tunnel showed three full feet of solid rock that will pay to ship.

"This ore body was found in Tunnel No. 1, 450 feet from its portal. Considerable ore had already been taken from this tunnel, but the shoots were all short. This one, however, is going to break the record in Cable Cove district. As I stated before, we have already drifted in

highly expressive mining camp English, exactly what I think of them. Here we are, compelled by the state of Oregon to pay for the blessed privilege of living. We are taxed first by the county (and often under an exorbitant levy), out of which the state cuts a big slice. Our personal property, in the way of mining equipment, milling plant, tools, powder, bunk houses and boarding houses, and our patented mining ground, are taxed often to the limit. What do we get in return? Does either the county or the state build roads for our benefit? Does the state maintain a bureau of mines, or a mineral exhibit for the advertisement of the industry? Does the state, with the money taken from our pockets maintain a college of mines? Does it do anything for our benefit?

"Not on your life. The state says to us: 'You will kindly pay us a little more money for the privilege of doing business within the borders of this commonwealth. If you do

this ore for a distance of sixty feet, every inch of which has been solid and strongly defined. Where we are now it looks better than ever before, no indications whatever of a pinch. The width of the ore body has varied from 2 to 6 feet, though there have been no sudden variations; but just a gradual increase or decrease of width. The present vertical depth is between 180 and 200 feet; so you see we already have a whole lot of ore blocked out in this one place, roughly estimated, something like 3 500 tons above the highest workings. By extending the lower tunnel, 200 additional feet of depth can be easily secured.

"The values, too, are satisfactory. The lowest assay I have yet had along this sixty feet was \$9.68. Most of them run in the neighborhood of \$50, almost entirely gold, while the highest went to \$52.70, showing conclusively that the values are evenly distributed. I should say that the entire shoot will go considerably better than \$20."

Mr. McCarvel had a letter a couple of weeks since from General Manager Bain, written from Chicago. He was then on his way to his old home in eastern Canada to spend the holidays. He expected to return to Minneapolis about January 1 and arrive in Sumpter early in February.

not, your charter will be revoked.

"As I said before, the federal government compels the miner to expend annually the sum of \$100 on his mining claim, thereby encouraging development. And now the state of Oregon steps in and compels the miner—not to dig a deeper hole, not to expend more money in developing his mineral holdings—but to pay direct into the coffers of the state a sum of money in many instances greater than the federal government requires expended in the ground.

"I am connected with a mining corporation in this camp, capitalized at \$250,000. Under the Eddy law we are compelled to pay an annual tax of \$70, which is just about the wage of one miner for one month. This then, is depriving my company of the ability to drive maybe ten feet of tunnel, or to sink a shaft in pay ore, instead of requiring that that labor be done in development of the ground, and in the enhancement of the mineral wealth of this state.