

The Sumpter Miner

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

The recent advance in the price of silver calls attention to the increasing scarcity of the floating surplus of that metal. Bar silver was quoted Saturday at 76 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents an ounce, while Mexican dollars ranged from 40 cents to 48 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents. These rates, it was said, were merely nominal, and any great demand for bars would cause an advance of the price. Conditions in the silver market are now such that the consumer waits on the producer. The war in the far east, the steady absorption by East India and this country's increasing trade with China are responsible, experts say, for this very complete reversal of conditions.

If the citizens of Sumpter care to be told an unpleasant truth, then let them read this prophecy: Unless they get together, stop knocking each other's business, and work in cordial harmony for the benefit of the community, one year from today this camp won't have a population of one thousand. That is the prophecy, and no occult power is needed to read that story of the future. Experience in mining camps and western towns generally is the only knowledge required to translate that writing on the wall. On the other hand, there is not a town in the northwest that will respond so quickly and satisfactorily to intelligent effort and enterprise—which consists of something more than going to Baker City and stating to a reporter that the "upper camp is booming, business is good and money is plentiful." If the people who are endeavoring to freeze out everybody else and make this a one man or a one institution town, succeed in their purpose, they will be welcome to what they get and will never again be able to saw off their holdings or any one else. A town that decays, with the ill will of those who leave it and those who live in contiguous districts, never revives, and that is merely the statement of an historic fact.

Attention is called to an error in Press Bulletin 185, issued by the United States Geological Survey for release on December 19, 1904. The statement was there made that Nevada was the leading state of the Union in the production of gold and silver during the year 1903. This is of course an evident mistake. Nevada led all other states in the increase of gold and silver production in 1903, as it did also in 1902, but ranked only eighth in the list of states that produce gold and fifth in silver-producing states. Its increase in the production of gold amounted to \$492,700, or 17.02 per cent; its increase in the production of silver was 1,304,300 fine ounces. Its actual production of gold in 1903 was valued at \$3,388,000, and its production of silver amounted to 5,050,500 fine ounces.

To Colorado still belongs the honor of heading the list of gold and silver producing states, notwithstanding the fact that Colorado was

the state in which occurred during 1903 the greatest decrease in the production of gold and silver. In gold the production fell off \$5,928,600, or 20.82 per cent; in silver the decrease amounted to 2,658,800 fine ounces. The production of gold in 1903 was valued, however, at no less than \$22,540,100, and the production of silver amounted to 12,90,200 fine ounces; so that Colorado's supremacy in the production of precious metals is still unquestioned. The decrease in production during 1903 was due to the strikes among the mines of Cripple Creek.

If the mining men succeed in killing the Eddy law, they can plead self defense in justification.

A Colorado paper tears to shreds the statement recently made by a New York banker, that more money is expended in the production of gold than it is worth, which absurd statement has been widely commented on. The Mining Gazette says: "In Colorado it is shown by an examination of statistics that the precious metal product of 1903 paid an excess of \$20,000,000 over the cost of wages of all miners, top men, teamsters, mill and smelter men and railroad transportation men. Supplies, upon which no statistical data is at hand, would make a further draft upon this surplus. In addition there are the large sums spent for machinery and equipment, all of which deducted leaves a balance net above every cost of ore mining operations. Such a balance sheet is, however, unfair, in that the cost of all mining operations is charged against the output of the developed mines. As a matter of fact, fully one-half the labor performed, supplies furnished and the greater part of the mining equipment is used in the newer enterprises not yet productive."

The indictment of Senator Mitchell and Congressman Hermann for alleged implication in timber land frauds, and the dismissal of United States Attorney Hall, unless they vindicate themselves completely, sounds the funeral knell of their political careers. Of course, all of Oregon awaits with impatient curiosity for the evidence on which the indictments were returned and the reason for Attorney Hall's dismissal.

IMPERIAL EXPECTS TO DOUBLE OUTPUT

General Manager A. L. McEwen, of the Imperial, is preparing to let another contract for hauling ore and concentrates to the Sumpter smelter. He has not yet decided whether to award a 6-months or 3-months contract.

"Three months will carry us until the spring breakup comes, and as at that time I expect to have nearly, if not quite doubled the mine's output I shall probably adopt the shorter contract period," said Mr. McEwen to a Miner man today.

ESTRAY NOTICE.

Taken up, at the ranch of Henry Panning, near Whitney, last spring, two 2-year-old colts, one grey, branded "C" on left shoulder, and one bay branded . Owner may regain property by paying expense of their keeping since the date of their taking up.

HENRY PANNING,
Whitney, Ore.

December 30, 1904.

AGAINST THE EDDY LAW

Continued from page 3.

"I will be the second," said Neil J. Sorenson.

"You can put the K. W. S. company down for another hundred," said Prof. Nicholson.

A motion to appoint a finance committee to solicit funds prevailed, and the chair named Seymour H. Bell, Neil J. Sorenson, Prof. H. H. Nicholson, Anthony Mohr, Tom C. Gray, John Wyatt, Emil Melzer, Clark Snyder, "and every other mining man in the camp who possesses 100 plunks," said the chairman.

Both the resolution and the finance committee are to report at the Saturday night meeting, until which date adjournment was taken.

At the adjourned meeting of mining men and merchants, held at Hotel Sumpter last Saturday night to hear the report of the resolutions committee, it was decided to retain the committee intact and empower it to draft a bill to be submitted by Representative Smith at the next session of the legislature, embodying such remedial legislation affecting the mining industry of this state as recommended by the resolutions committee. These resolutions, which were adopted, advocated the exemption of mining corporations from taxation under the Eddy law; recommended a revision of existing laws relative to the location of placer mining claims; asked that Oregon corporations be absolved from the necessity of maintaining a resident board of directors; recommended that the Oregon Miners' association more fully co-operate with its branches; and advocates the granting of every inducement, in the way of a low organization fee and exemption from state taxation, to corporations organized for the reduction of ores.

The resolutions were signed by Charles H. Chance, L. G. Lilley, Seymour H. Bell, H. H. Nicholson and Emil Melzer.

Representative-elect Smith was present at the adjourned meeting Saturday, and himself made the suggestion that the resolutions committee be continued in force to draft a proper mining bill for submission by him.

Mr. Chance, as chairman of the committee, has already begun work on the proposed bill.

Gun Grown into Limb of Tree.

Says a recent dispatch from Chatcolet, Idaho. An interesting relic of a distant past was discovered near here a few days ago, within a short distance of the human skulls and bones brought to light by the O. R. & N. steam shovel, a gun of an ancient make and pattern was found by one of the foremen, attached to a limb at a height of about 15 feet from the ground. The trigger guard had evidently been placed around a small twig which had grown until the iron guard had become firmly imbedded in the wood. The limb to which it was attached had afterward decayed and died. The gun is a single barreled, muzzle loading shotgun of rude workmanship, its stock having apparently been made by

hand. There is no date or inscription, except the initials "H. F. L." on the barrel. From decay caused by time and weather the screws fastening the lock to the stock had become loosened, and the lock had fallen off and was not found. The stock is made of hard black walnut, and is still well preserved. The iron barrels although rusty, is in good condition, considering its long exposure to the weather. Owing to the proximity of the old firearm to the human skeletons, it is supposed to have belonged to one of the latter when in life, and according to the Indian custom, was placed near him when he was buried. The gun was probably once sold to the Indians at one of the numerous trading posts of the Hudson Bay company.

Sanitarium For Haines.

E. D. Severance, mayor of Haines, and C. O. and W. J. May, of Baker City, filed articles of incorporation with County Clerk A. B. Combs, Tuesday, organizing the Hot Springs company.

The principal object of the company is to construct and operate a sanitarium at the Haines hot springs. Such a project has been under consideration for some time, and the people of this community are certainly thankful that some steps are being taken toward the establishment of such an institution. The company is incorporated with a capital stock of \$90,000, with the head office at Baker City for the present. The incorporation papers also embody the buying and selling of real estate, operation of water works, ditches, flumes, tramways, railways and telephone, the bonding and mortgaging of goods, receiving gifts, donations, etc.—Haines Record.

Pitfalls of Mining Finance

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