

# SUMPERITES BANQUET IN SWELL GOLDFIELD JOINT

## They Express a Poetic Yearning for Timber, Water, Snow, Wives and Sweethearts Left Behind.

Goldfield, Nevada, Dec. 27.—There was a gathering here on the evening of Dec. 24th of a number of old "Sumpterites," who commemorated the occasion in proper style. Of course, there was a "feast of reason and a flow of soul" and naturally enough the "flowing bowl" was not neglected. Out here on the sand dunes of Nevada, it is pleasant to think of the green trees which line the Blue mountains and even the snow at this season of the year is a pleasant reminiscence and preferable to the clouds of dust encountered here. Last, but by no means least, are fond recollections of sweethearts left behind.

In view of all this, it is small wonder, that the following "gang" assembled at the Palm restaurant, the "swellest" cafe in Goldfield. It was made up of Judge J. L. Evans, who used to dispense even-handed justice in Sumpter and who achieved the distinction of being the champion "slough" player in the "deestriet;" Arthur Philbrick, Charlie Fenner, W. T. Young, formerly of the May Queen; Frank Murphy, W. H. Scott, Charlie Warren of the Valley Queen, John Davies, Dr. Pomeroy and T. J. Costello.

It is quite needless to describe what took place, because those who know them can well imagine it. And then an elaborate bill of fare awaited them, sharpened by two days of abstinence from food and drink.

It would naturally be presumed that after having got through with this meal, the boys would have been "too full for utterance," but they weren't. It would take up too much space to tell all they said or repeat all the "bon mots" (that's French) they got off. Philbrick's effusion was:

"Here's to Oregon's timber, fish and hay,

Likewise Nevada's sunshine, silver and gold;

It will be many a long and weary day;

This bunch will grow old and feeble and gray.

When Oregon's timber, fish and hay,

No more shall be, and Nevada's sunshine, silver and gold shall fail to welcome all of thee."

Then Tom Costello had his innings:

"Here's to dear old Sumpter, In the heart of Oregon's mountains, blue;

Here—fill to the brim a bumper, She's a friend ever tried and true."

Judge Evans, too, lapsed into poetry:

"Here's to Nevada, the land of gold,

Where the coyote howls and the wind blows cold,

We will never go back till we all grow gold,

Without some of that stuff we all call old."

Frank Muzzy, with a young moustache and imperial just started, raved about the wives and sweethearts left behind and Charlie Warren bewailed the fact that this district did not have two or three of Sumpter's capable newspaper men and half a dozen of its promoters. They were followed by Dr. Pomeroy, Davies and Scott and the program closed with Costello's:

"Here's to the knocker with his awful little hammer,

When he arrives in Hades:

The devil quickly raises all the shades,

'Come here thou thrice welcome one

Sit on my right and simmer.' "

The boys had a jolly good time and were all on deck the next morning.

The following Sumpterites who were here and were kept away from the banquet through other engagements, or through fear of temptation, are: Charlie Peters formerly with Attorney N. C. Richards and who report says is on the high road to wealth, Sol Camp, Bill Kitchen, Jim Hogan, George Barnes, Henry Branning, L. C. Beckwith, Ed Smith, W. N. Kincaid, George Bidwell, Wesley Warren, George Dunham and K. R. Casper.

## SIMPLON TUNNEL NEAR COMPLETION

The close of the present year will mark the completion of one of the greatest engineering works of modern times, the Simplon tunnel, piercing the Alps and establishing a new fast means of communication and transportation between the north and south of Europe.

The total length of the Simplon tunnel is, according to official figures, 19,791 meters, or about 63,310 feet.

It was expected that the two gangs of workmen digging away from each end of the line would meet under the mountain toward the end of last month, but great and unlooked for troubles were encountered, which delayed the work to such an extent that this novel meeting under the mountain has been postponed, but it is a matter of only a few days before this will occur and the hole will be complete. Considerable work, however, remains to be done after this

# CLAIM-JUMPERS ACTIVE AT END OF OLD YEAR

The claim jumper will be abroad in the land tonight.

There promises to be something doing when midnight comes and graveyards yawn.

One or two surreptitious expeditions have planned to start for the hills about noon—armed to the teeth and prepared to jump or be jumped on.

The only active and visible sign of preparation so far has been the purchase by half a dozen mining men of snow-shoes, quart bottles, location blanks and guns.

It is rumored that an expedition has been formed to jump the North Pole mine. Tom Gray has his eyes on the Columbia and Tony Mohr is expected to disappear in the direction of the Bonanza.

It is a fact worthy of note that each year there is less claim jumping in the Sumpter district. Various causes explain this phenomenon. In the first place, nearly every operator in this camp does his annual assessment work. In the second place, a broad feeling of liberality—a desire to give every miner a show for his white ally—actuates the mining population of this region. In the third place, claim jumping is a recreation dangerous alike to life and limb. Fourthly, the weather is usually anything but salubrious on

Dec. 31 at midnight. Few men care to make a snow shoe journey to some wind-swept peaktop, where the mercury flirts outrageously with the figures below zero.

Last year there was very little claim jumping. It is true that an armed body of men marched to a fraction adjoining the Columbia and met another armed body coming from another direction. There was no clash, except verbally, but the case is now pending in the courts.

Advices from out Greenhorn way say that the jumper will have but little to do this year. Proofs of labor have already been filed by owners of almost every located claim in that section.

As a usual thing, on the eve of a New Year, the sale by newspaper offices and stationers of blank location notices is very heavy. The publisher of The Miner recalls that two years ago today he sold fully a hundred location blanks. A year ago business in this line had dropped to two dozen. This year, during the week, the total number of location blanks sold by this office would not buy the printer chewing gum.

All of which is indicative of the fact that claim owners in the Sumpter camp consider their undeveloped holdings of sufficient value to impel them to do legal assessment work as a precaution against jumpers

meeting before the work is finished.

At the present time the west Alps are pierced by two tunnels, of which one connects the other one—the Mont Cenis—with France. There was always a need of quicker transportation between Italy, on the one hand, and the north of France and England on the other. The importance of the Simplon pass has been known for centuries, and during the years from 1800 to 1805 Napoleon built the famous road over the Simplon, which, at that time, was one of the greatest engineering achievements. The road has been used up to the present day.

When, in 1857, construction on the Mont Cenis tunnel was begun, plans had already been laid out for a railroad tunnel through the Simplon, and since then a number of plans and schemes have been submitted, but it was only in 1894 that actual work on the Simplon tunnel was started.

The following figures will be of interest, as they show the length of the principal Alpine tunnels in Switzerland, viz.: Arlberg tunnel, 33,972 feet; Mont Cenis tunnel, 42,405 feet; St. Gothard tunnel, 41,952 feet; Simplon tunnel, 65,310 feet.

In other words the Simplon tunnel will be about 20,000 feet longer than the tunnel under the St. Gothard. What immense engineering difficulties have been encountered in the construction of the Simplon tunnel can hardly be told in an article of this kind. The pressure on the tunnel is immense, the Simplon Alps laying over the tunnel to an average height of more than 7,000 feet of the entire length of the cut.

The construction of the Mont Cenis tunnel took 14 years and involved an expenditure of nearly

75,000,000 francs; that of the St. Gothard tunnel, nine and a half years, and cost over 50,000,000 francs. The Simplon tunnel, as shown before, nearly one-third longer than the St. Gothard, has been completed in a little less than 10 years and has not cost over 70,000,000 francs.

The Simplon tunnel consists of two parallel galleries, the axes of which are 55 feet distant of each other and in intervals of 700 feet they are connected by a transverse section. However, only one of these two galleries has been built out to a railroad tunnel, while the second gallery will be completed later on, whenever traffic shall require it.

### Stockmen Organize.

The meeting of the stockraisers and citizens of northern Grant, for the purpose of opposing outside stock, was held at Hamilton on Friday, December 23, at which there were quite a number of the most prominent sheepmen and cattlemen present. The resolution stating the object of the association was again endorsed by this meeting, and the organization was perfected by the election of Emil Scharff, of Monument, as president; H. Craig, of Fox, secretary, and W. W. Austin, of Hamilton, assistant secretary. President Scharff appointed W. Austin, J. D. Caseday and Wm. Swick, a committee on constitution and by-laws, with instructions to report at the next meeting. Emil Scharff, Lawrence Sweek and John Jonas were appointed a committee on publication. —Blue Mountain Eagle.

J. Win Wilson, of the Listen Lake mine, returned from a business trip to Baker City this morning.