

The Sumpter Miner

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The Miner will go as far as any legitimate, loyal newspaper in giving a black eye to a region that is drawing too heavily for comfort on the population of its home territory; but it draws the line on publishing the ridiculously false statements now going the rounds, relative to the sanitary condition at Goldfield.

The Pendleton East Oregonian has broken loose again in a tirade against Baker county mining men, because they are organizing their forces for the purpose of making an effort to have the Eddy law repealed, a measure that has worked infinite injury to the mining industry, hence to the state. This is that Pendleton paper's hobby and periodically it published a rabid editorial on the subject. The Miner, for a while, thought the writer was merely ignorant of the subject he attempts frequently to discuss, and so endeavored to enlighten him on his favorite topic.

The one idea that appears to be firmly fixed in the place where his mind ought to be is that only wildcat companies oppose this law, that legitimate companies are satisfied with its provisions when in reality, the reverse is true. The wildcat company is organized for the purpose of making its profits from the sale of its stock, with no idea of making a producing mine of its property. It can therefore afford to pay very much larger commissions and other expenses on stock sales than can the legitimate company, that relies on the products of its mine for its profits. The hostility of the state government to the mining industry, as manifested by this Eddy law, renders it more difficult to sell stock in companies operating in Oregon, to whether they are incorporated under the laws of this state or not, for all are included, than in any other state in the Union. It is a direct, positive, heavy handicap to the industry. There are no less than a dozen legitimate companies organized here in Sumpter that have been "forced to the wall" on account of its blighting influence.

No state legislature, actuated by a desire to promote the development of the natural resources of the state, would ever have enacted such a measure. It was made a law by a lot of narrowminded, selfish, prejudiced men engaged in other callings, whose purpose was to saddle the burden of taxation onto others. Even though the law produces a revenue for the state of \$100,000 annually, how is the state benefitted, when it prevents the investment here of a million and more annually, as it certainly does; which million would be the means of eventually producing other unnumbered millions?

These points have already been elucidated for the benefit of the East Oregonian several times; which it persistently ignores and continues to reiterate its silly refrain about wildcat companies dodging taxation. Nothing more is needed to demonstrate the fact that the Pendleton

paper is merely actuated by what, for lack of a more accurate term to express the idea, may be called class or sectional prejudice, which is as old and well known and contemptible as any other form of human selfishness.

If the reader was no better informed on the subject than the writer, up to this moment, he will be surprised to learn that California has no mining law. It was repealed in bulk at the extra session held in February, 1900; at least so says the Los Angeles Mining Review. And that suggests the not half bad idea, that Oregon could profit by following California's example, and being governed entirely by the national law.

That is, of course, if the farmers and Portland jays, who control the legislature and who know absolutely nothing about the requirements of mining legislation, insist on forcing their ignorance and prejudices into the statute governing this subject. Possibly Representative Smith can induce the Boxers to repeal the whole shooting match, and if he can do this much, he will have performed a distinctive service for the mining industry. The hope that he may accomplish more than this, of enacting a wise, commonsense measure, seems to be too remote for serious consideration, if the future is to be judged by the past.

O. P. Hoff, state commissioner of labor, has issued the first biennial report of the bureau over which he presides. The report is a voluminous document of 165 printed pages and is evidently the result of much labor in collecting and compiling the facts and statistics contained therein. One would not be justified in casting a doubt upon the accuracy of the work, judged by a mere cursory glance through its pages; but even such superficial examination convinces one that it is far from complete. One notable instance of omission is that neither the statistical tables on wage earnings, nor in the compilation of alleged facts pertaining to labor organizations, are miners mentioned. So far as labor unions are concerned, the miners probably stand first in numbers. Those engaged in the lumber business and farming probably outnumber the miners, but they are not organized into unions. In point of individual wages, certainly no other class of laborer in this state are so highly remunerated.

But Mr. Hoff makes up for this oversight by a little philosophizing on social and industrial topics. Speaking of labor troubles, he says: "The rule is that where mistakes are made, injustice perpetrated and wrong done, the cause is lack of knowledge on one side or the other of the true conditions. Contrary to many conceived ideas, the natural desire of man is to be just." Now, there is the expression of a beautifully optimistic idea, a radiantly iridescent dream, that makes one who is intimately acquainted with selfish human nature, who has personally bumped up against the unadulterated coarseness of average mankind, infinitely weary.

The New York Commercial says that so far as corporations are concerned, 1904 was a year of reorganizations; few new ones of any importance having been founded. The same program ought to be continued through 1905.

Tom Taylor returned this forenoon from a hurry trip to Baker City.

WE HAVE A GOLDFIELD RIGHT HERE AT HOME

Guy Pierson Has Returned From the Boom Camp in Nevada and Says Bear Gulch Has it Faded.

Guy E. Pierson is in town today, showing the panings from a handful of dirt taken from the Treasure Box, a claim in the Bear Gulch district, in which he owns a controlling interest. There are forty or fifty coarse colors. The sample was taken from a depth of only eight feet.

The ledge is twelve feet wide, which pans all the way across; but four feet of it runs very high. All of it, however, would pay to mill. The four feet can be shipped to the smelter at a handsome profit. A side track grade, formerly used for a logging road, comes within a few hundred yards of the property, though the iron has been taken up.

The smelter is only about two and a half miles away.

Mr. Pierson returned from Goldfield about a month ago, and says that, taking everything into consideration, he prefers eastern Oregon as a mining region. He thinks that the Bear Gulch district is going to prove the richest in the Inland Empire, and that it is going to be the making of Sumpter as a mining camp. He has mined all over the west, a number of years in Colorado, and says the surface showing there is the best he has ever seen in all of his experience. A little development work, that will certainly be done this season, will tell the story.

SMELTER WILL RUN AT ITS FULLEST CAPACITY

General Manager Fred D. Fuller, of the Oregon Smelting and Refining company, arrived home today from New York, where he went to attend the annual meeting of the stockholders of that corporation. Mr. Fuller says the meeting was entirely satisfactory to himself and his report seemed to be satisfactory to the stockholders; that the meeting was eminently harmonious, without an echo of a discord. The Miner has already published the result of that meeting, the election of directors and officers.

Regarding the plan of operating the plant to its full capacity, by

running twenty-four hours a day, as was discussed at that time, Mr. Fuller says will be inaugurated soon, probably the latter part of this month, though the exact date has not yet been fixed. He does not doubt but what an ample, continuous ore supply will be available.

Accompanying Manager Fuller on his return is S. J. Merritt, late of Peru, South America. For some time to come he will be attached to the smelter management in a confidential capacity.

They came from New York by way of California, Mrs. Fuller stopping off at Los Angeles, where she will remain for some weeks.

ANOTHER TEST OF STANDARD'S ORES

Another shipment of cobalt-copper-gold ore from the multi-metalled Standard mine at Quartzburg will shortly be made to a Denver testing works. Ore deliveries are now being made at Tipton, and the entire shipment of 16 tons will be ready for consignment about January 14.

The shipment is for further tests of Standard ore along the lines of those made last fall in Denver by Prof. H. H. Nicholson, consulting engineer for the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, fiscal agents for and operators of the Standard Consolidated Mining company's properties.

Only 1,000 pounds were used in the original test. The treatment

process evolved from an analysis of and experiment with this sample, resulted in a solution of the problem of Standard ore treatment. From a test of a larger quantity of the ore, Prof. Nicholson will deduce details as to mill practice and construction. A treatment plant, of the design to be decided upon as a result of the second Denver test, will be erected at the property in the spring or summer of 1905.

Professor Nicholson, who is an eminent mineralogist and metallurgist as well as a practical mine operator, intends to profit by the sad experience of so many western mining men, and not erect a costly milling plant only to later discover its uselessness as an efficient saver of values. Prof. Nicholson will accompany the shipment to Denver and will personally conduct the final tests.

None of the ore in the 16-ton shipment will grade lower than the Standard average—\$100 per ton.