

# The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY  
J. W. CONNELLA

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Fifteen hundred tons of Alabama pig iron have been sold in Pittsburg, for delivery during the first three months of this year, which is rather a striking instance of "carrying coal to New Castle."

Members of the general assembly of Nevada have received word from the interior department at Washington that that state will be expected to take steps at the next session of the legislature to stop the sale of liquor along the line of the irrigation canals that are being constructed in connection with the reclamation work. The department insists that the various states that are enjoying the benefits of the reclamation acts must give heed to the suggestion, as the presence of liquor resorts along the line of the canal has resulted in many acts of crime and seriously interfered with the prosecution of work.

The East-Oregonian calls attention of legislators from the western portion of the state to the fact that eastern Oregon has always helped them to get big appropriations for their state institutions, and other grafts, and beseeches them to reciprocate now by assisting eastern Oregon to secure legislation necessary to insure the consummation of proposed irrigation projects. Ignoring here the palpable fact that this is sucker politics; that the way to get political favors is to demand them on combined strength that can be delivered at the present or in the immediate future, and not beg for them on the ground of past favors, The Miner wishes to suggest to the East-Oregonian that its own policy of knocking the mining interests is not the acme of wisdom, to say the least, mildly expressed.

New Jersey is making a fight on the insurance company combine in Newark. Just why New Jersey should interfere with a trust of any kind, that state being their favorite breeding place, and they the state's chief product, its favorite infant-prodigy industry dependent doth not say, but the investigation is revealing some interesting alleged facts. The companies declare, without a wink of either eye, that they are only making their little two per cent profit; also that in certain western states, where the companies are not permitted to get together to arrange schedules of classification, rates are necessarily higher. That is doubtless an appropriate piece of information to convey to the marines, but no man who has a Nature, given license to reside outside of an insane asylum can be made to believe that competition raises prices, that a law which really prevents a combine, which necessarily stimulates competition, increases rates.

Governor Chamberlain recommends that a law be passed to tax public utility corporations on a basis of gross earnings. It has also been

suggested that mining companies be taxed according to the production of their properties, which involves the same principle. The Miner does not pose as an authority on constitutional law, yet it ventures the second-hand opinion that in the case of mining companies, such a law would not be declared valid, should it be tested in the courts.

All who have lived in mining regions, where the taxation of mines has been generally discussed, know that this system of taxation has always been proposed and are familiar with the constitutional objection to it. Some people hereabouts, however, have evidently never heard the case stated. The way the lawyers put it is that, in the eyes of the law, mining property is real estate; the same as farm lands. They say that it is an established principle of law that there must be no discrimination between citizens on any proposition; nor against one property, in favor of another; or, in other words, all men and property are equal in the eyes of the law. This being the case, if a state taxes mines on their output, then farms must pay taxes on the same basis; if farmers are not so taxed, then miners cannot be forced to contribute to the state's revenues on that basis.

Just think of the indignant howl that the farmers would utter against such an iniquitous law!

One Colorado mine, the Bassick, Custer county, is celebrated for having produced \$5,000,000, and being nothing more nor less than the crater of an extinct volcano, filled with boulders in size from tiny pebbles to huge rocks fifty feet across. These, coated with a scale of tellurium ore, are often rich in gold, giving as high values as \$10 per pound. Scientists suppose this scale was deposited by the gases of the volcano, and this is the only place in the world where the evidence seems to show that such a mineral deposit from gases has been made.

Dr J. R. Whiteside has returned to Phoenix, Arizona, from a trip in to the Big Bend country to the northwest of chloride. He is of the opinion that there exists many rich veins of gold and silver ores which were worked by a prehistoric race. In the turquoise mine are to be found numbers of crude implements with which the ancient mined the precious stone. These mines are in the most secluded spot in the United States. It is Dr. Whiteside's intention to return to the mines when the weather moderates, and pursue further his antiquarian researches.

The product of the mines of the area included in the Louisiana Purchase, according to the United States Bureau of Statistics, is as follows: The coal produced in this area in 1902 amounted to 30,000,000 tons, against 14,000,000 in 1890; the iron ore to be 15,895,000 tons in 1902, against 1,269,000 tons in 1890; the silver product of '02 to \$37,837,576 in coluing value, against \$44,799,998 in 1890, and gold \$39,841,500 in 1902, against \$10,650,000 in 1890.

There is an old, true saying, that "there are more ways of killing a dog than by choking him to death with butter." There are also more ways of getting the best of a public land deal than that adopted by the Oregon crooks, which is sometimes

dangerous. Further east, where they have studied the science of "doing" the public longer than we have out here, they have gained greater skill and proficiency, and do things differently. A form of graft in public lands which has heretofore attracted little attention, has been recently brought to the notice of the government. An effort is being made by certain interests, especially in South Dakota and Colorado, practically to annul the old homestead law and substitute for it a 640-acre or square mile homestead. The movement is not in accordance with the homestead idea at all, but is brought about by the desire of cattlemen to get possession of large tracts of land for grazing purposes. In his address before the Forestry Congress last week, President Roosevelt denounced the men who are bent on "skinning the land" instead of "developing the country."

Near the end of the last session of congress, a bill was passed substituting a square mile homestead in place of the 160-acre homestead, but was made to apply only to western Nebraska. At the present session two similar bills have been introduced by Representatives Brooks and Martin, applying the same provision to Colorado and the western part of South Dakota.

It is charged that these measures are in the interest of stockmen and will prove a serious detriment to real settlement and development. The Nebraska law contains a provision that in case a man had already filed on 160 acres as a homestead, he should be entitled to take up an adjoining 480 acres; and statements have come even from Nebraska that cowboys had in advance secured filings on 160-acre tracts and were thus enabled to take the additional 480 acre tracts for the benefit of employers, while the real settlers took second chance.

Between 1800 and 1840, the world's production of silver was about 4 to 1 in value, as compared with the production of gold. When in 1894 the new California and a few years later the Australian gold finds were made, the annual output of gold so increased that the yellow metal output was soon more than 3 to 1 in value, compared with the silver output, and during this great change in relative production the commercial rates remained comparatively stable, due to the fact that the mints of the world took the precious metals and made them into currency.

J. P. McManus, of the Pilot Rock Record, takes the proposed reorganization of the Golconda as a text for a general roast of mining men and methods, several prominent men of Sumpter being among those condemned. Though inaccurate in his statements and away off in his conclusions, the story makes entertaining, if not edifying and instructive, reading matter—which is doubtless what he was endeavoring to produce.

There are at present 1,000 coal miners on strike in Germany, with the probability of 3,000 more joining in the movement soon. King William, of course, has butted in and will endeavor to straighten things out. There is a chance for him to employ his long idle army, give it something it hasn't had for many years, some real fighting. Let the miners take their position in the coal bins, with their contents as ammunition and their strong right arms as weapons, and see if the German army can dislodge them.

## OFFICIAL RECORDS.

The following instruments were filed at the court house in Baker City for record yesterday:

### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

DEEDS.

- Guy L. Lindsay, cashier, and wife, to Geo. W. Jett, undivided  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest in W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 17, T. 10, R. 37; \$400.
- John Waterman and wife and Jno. Schmitz and wife to Thos. Bessler, Jr., lots 9 and 10, block 27, Pacific addition to Baker City; \$150.
- Thos. Bessler to Anna Bessler, same; \$1.
- Annie M. Bessler and husband to D. B. Hallisey, same; \$150.
- Annie Giles and husband to Ira B. Sturges, trustee, lots 5, 7 and 8 block, 12, McCreary's addition to Baker City; \$3,000.
- Ira B. Sturges, trustee, and wife to M. B. Whitehead, same; \$1.
- State to Leonard Tureman, 160 acres in S. 2, T. 9, R. 39; \$200.
- State to John M. Swift, E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 28, T. 8, R. 40; \$100.
- Same to same, W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 28, T. 8, R. 40; \$100.
- Same to J. M. Swift, E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 2, T. 8, R. 40; \$100.
- Same to same, E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 7, T. 8, R. 40; \$1,000.
- John Schmitz and wife to S. O. Correll, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 35, T. 8, R. 40; \$1,500.
- Jos. Schwartz and wife to Guy L. Lindsay, cashier, E. 24 foot lot 5, block 3, Sumpter; \$1.
- Geo. G. Pratt and wife to Chas. Keller, lot 6, block 1, Duffey's north addition to Richland; \$2,000.
- United States to Jacob F. Hahn, S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 11 E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 14, T. 7 R. 44.
- Leonard B. Foster and wife to John Whalin, N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 6, T. 8 R. 46; \$725.
- M. D. Simmons and twenty-four others to Waterbury & Allen Ditch company, all their interest in said ditch; stock.
- Roy H. Miller and wife to Sam W. Duncan, lot 7, block 37, Vison's addition to Sumpter, to correct; \$75.
- F. W. Eppinger and wife to W. J. Patterson, undivided  $\frac{1}{4}$  interest in 5,000 acres east of Baker City, to correct; \$1.
- United States to heirs of Ira A. Taylor, 160 acres in S. 20, 21 and 28, T. 10, R. 38.
- United States to W. S. Love, S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 33, T. 7, R. 44.
- State to T. B. Taylor, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 16, T. 10, R. 38; \$50.
- L. S. Wickersham to Anna M. Taylor, lots 4 and 5, block 17, Pacific addition Baker City.
- Lillie M. Fisk to T. B. Taylor, half interest in 50x100 feet Greenhorn City; \$35.
- W. R. Hawley to Thos. Taylor east half lot 8, block 6, Sumpter; \$1.
- E. A. Fish and husband to D. B. Hallisey, lots 5, 6, 7 and 8, block 29, Pacific addition to Baker City; \$300.
- Whitney Townsite company to Dora J. Eckman, lot 2, block a, Tipton; \$100.

### MINING MATTER.

DEEDS.

- Henry Mentle to Geo. O'Connor, half interest in Mountain Chief Extension quartz mining claim; \$1,000.
- Jennie Baisley to D. L. Moomaw undivided,  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest in "Cling Stone" quartz mining claim; \$1.
- John C. Boyce to John N. Shanks, the "Stanford" quartz mining claim; \$1.