

## SMITH'S HOPES ARE ROSY HUED

Attorney C. H. Chance today received a letter from Representative A. P. Smith at Salem, acknowledging receipt of a draft of the mining bill prepared by the Sumpter Miners' association committee, of which Mr. Chance was chairman. Mr. Smith writes that he has submitted a copy of the proposed measure to his colleagues from the various other mining counties of the state, and has received from them many valuable suggestions and recommendations. A conference of representatives from southern and eastern Oregon will be held in a few days, writes Mr. Smith and it is anticipated that a conference bill, relating particularly to taxation of mining corporations, will be prepared for early presentation to the house.

Representative Smith says that his hopes for securing the enactment of legislation along the proper lines are of the brightest. It is possible, he says, that a bill will pass this session exempting mining companies not on a paying and producing basis from taxation of any kind. This seems to be the desire of every representative interviewed by Mr. Smith. Provisions will probably be made in the proposed law for taxation of mining companies upon a basis of their profit from production.

Mr. Smith writes for an expression of opinion on this proposition from his eastern Oregon constituents.

In conversation with a reporter for The Miner this afternoon, all the local mining men expressed approval of the plan. Representative Smith will be so notified by phone.

In the meantime, pending the drafting of the mining tax bill by the conference, the Smith bill, prepared by the Sumpter committee, will be placed upon its passage through the lower house, with every prospect for enactment. This measure, when shorn of its provisions relating to exemption of mining corporations from taxation under the Eddy law, will provide for the filing of affidavits of the performance of annual assessment work on mining claims and will change the present mode of locating placer claims.

In his letter, Mr. Smith professes the utmost confidence in the ability of himself and his colleagues in conference to place mining companies outside the pale of the obnoxious Eddy law, and says that the interest in and kindly feeling toward the mining industry of this state, displayed by members of the legislature surprised him very agreeably.

### WANT TO MOVE MINING

#### BUILDING AT THE FAIR

At the Lewis and Clark fair, mining will be forced into the background, literally speaking, if the plan now proposed is adopted. The Portland Telegram says:

A request has been made to the state Lewis and Clark fair commission to allow the moving of the mining building 150 feet east and south of its present location, to permit the erection of the new manufactories,

liberal arts and varied industries building, work on which is to start soon.

The request came from the executive committee of the exposition, and will be brought before the state commission at its meeting next Saturday. The moving of the mining building is considered necessary for the necessary space for the new building already determined upon by the executive committee.

The moving of the building will be no light task, as it is built of steel, the universal exposition material, and is 100x200 feet in size, with plumbing connections for the most part completed. The building is now practically completed, at a cost of \$14,000, and was built by the Sirell Construction company, of Oakland, California. Injury to the building can only be avoided by careful work in moving it. This will be taken into consideration by the state commission in permitting the removal of the structure.

### IN SWELLING GROUND AT CRACKER OREGON

General Manager L. R. Bellman, of the Cracker-Oregon mine, made the round trip to Bourne this morning and left this afternoon for Portland, on business. He brought down word from the hills that the miners at the Cracker-Oregon had encountered a streak of hard luck recently. The ground at this mine has always been bad. Of late, however, it has been awful. The main adit level passes through a formation with a predilection for swelling. The tunnel has been lost two or three times, and the company has been to extra ordinary expense in picking it up again.

The other day the workings were cleared out and Frank Flannery and Hugh Gillis, two of the best miners in this part of the country, began the carrying out of a 100-foot tunnel contract. The ledge objected. About a week ago the vein sloughed off from its two walls and crushed all the timbering in sight. The wreck was complete. The debris was finally cleared off and work started again.

The last two or three days has seen a different course of events. Instead of swelling and crushing the timbers, which are placed two and a half feet apart, the vein is sliding down from above and driving the heavy timbers into the muck on the floor of the tunnel. "It's the worst ground I ever saw," says Manager Bellman. "However, we have finally got the best of it, and from now on the work of drifting will progress rapidly."

Fossil, a properly named town in this state, has voted to abolish whisky and electric lights. Though the post-office department will protect the monopoly of that name, no power or influence on earth can prevent other Oregon towns from butting in on the Fossil spirit.

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