

# The Sumpter Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY  
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Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
One Year ..... \$2.00  
Six Months ..... 1.00  
ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

The directors of the Lewis and Clark show have finally decided not to run a church fair; and so will keep it open on Sundays.

The mine managers of Butte are discussing the question of having their men work only six shifts a week, and the miners are objecting. There is a chance for another big strike, but if the men are wise they will not avail themselves of it. Ignoring for the moment the question of the divine inspiration of the injunction that man shall rest one day in seven, all human experience teaches the wisdom thereof.

The long abandoned silver mine at Cherryfield, Maine, is about to be reopened. Dwelling houses in the vicinity have been leased by the parties who are conducting the operations, who are organized under the name of the Cherryfield Mining company. This mine was opened about 25 years ago, in the height of the Maine mining fever, and a shaft sunk to a depth of 300 feet. Silver and zinc ore were found, but under the methods then in vogue, the mine could not be worked at a profit.

The Pendleton East Oregonian of Saturday contained a ten-inch editorial, announcing that it will at an early day begin the publication of a frenzied finance story, a la Tom Lawson, "exposing" the Golconda deal, from soda to hock. Had the E-O started in to publish this expose, without this warning, this threat, some declare it to be, it would have avoided the appearance of suspicion of a dishonest motive. While The Miner is not in the business of public guardian, protecting suckers from the ever-present anglers, but the chances are that it will have to supplement the E-O's story, as a matter of local self protection. The Pendleton paper must tell the whole story, unless it wishes to share the doubtful honor with this paper.

George W. Tinsley, of Cox Bar, California, says he bought during the season just closed more than \$4,000 worth of gold dust from miners who obtained it from moss in the river. Moss mining, according to Tinsley, is becoming an up-to-date method of obtaining gold. He says that on the rocks and bedrock along the sides of a channel, especially on riffles, and in places where the current is swift, moss forms in the summer months. When the water rises in winter it overflows these places and the moss acts as a gold saver. When the water begins to fall in summer the miners gather the moss and either put it in the sun to dry, burning it later and panning out the ashes, or they wash it in a tub of water until the gold is all washed out. Now, look out for a new process for saving placer gold—with a moss attachment.

Frightfully cold, storms and blizzards are reported from the east.

Here in Sumpter, we are enjoying spring weather. With plenty of snow, yet people go sleighing in their shirt sleeves; if an inches or so falls occasionally at night, where it is not packed, it melts during the following day; overcoats are unused; everything is lovely and all save the spirit of man of divine.

Peter S. Grosscup, the federal judge at Chicago, author of the learned article in the February McClure's on "How to save the corporations," is the brother of the Grosscup, of Tacoma, attorney for the Northern Pacific railroad, corrupter of courts and legislatures, chief of the lobby at Olympia, that is bold and unscrupulous in its methods, insolent in its demands and vindictive in its revenges. Judge Grosscup says the big corporations have come to stay; but, if our republican institutions survive, the corporations must be regulated by law and strictly supervised. He favors national legislation and gives good reasons therefore.

It is strange that two brothers, with the same inherited mental and moral traits, the same early environments and habit, should assume such diametrically opposite attitudes on this greatest living issue. It would almost seem that one had deliberately sold his soul for what the world calls success, delivered on the spot, without waiting and working.

The Oregonian quotes a member of the committee on mining in the state legislature as saying that the bill creating a state mining bureau will not be passed, because no one except the few men who are out for the job of commissioner, and "a mining paper or two" want any such legislation; that, as a matter of fact, the mining men are opposed to it. All of which is ineffable rot. Of course, mining men do not want a law that will give the commissioner authority to interfere with their business; nor do they favor the bill, introduced by our own prize legislator, that constitutes the secretary of state, tax assessor, company auditor, judge, jury and inquisitor.

It is inexplicable, however, that they can't get such legislation as they ask, the enactment of laws that will benefit the industry and the state at large. The motive of the Portland push and the Willamette valley farmers, in persistently refusing to enact the desired laws, is something that one unacquainted with that tribe of political Indians can not fathom. So far as the repeal of the obnoxious Eddy law is concerned, that seems to be about as difficult to accomplish as for the Russian serfs to secure a constitutional form of government. The mining interests should send some level-headed representative to Salem to see what the trouble is. It would seem that any man of ordinary common sense and tact could go before the proper committees and explain our needs, which are so apparent and urgent, that opposition would be withdrawn.

Sweeney, the mining millionaire of Spokane, threw his strength to Sam Piles, of Seattle, created a stampede and elected him United States senator. He then assumed an attitude of outraged virtue, declaring that legislators actually insulted him by offering to sell him their votes, which propositions he turned down with indignant scorn. Can it be possible that Sweeney thinks he can by such mock heroics, such transparent "con-

talk," make the public believe that he ever entertained the hope of securing the senatorial toga in any other way than by buying it? He is in no way fitted for the position, has never performed any service for either his state or his party, and the mere fact that he aspired to that lofty position was an exhibition of insolent presumption, inspired by ignorance and idolatrous worship of his predatory wealth. Talk to any one in Spokane or the Coeur d'Alenes who is familiar with Sweeney's career, and he will tell you of his crooked methods, his contemptible practices, his despicable character. He started in to buy the United States senatorship, as a plaything with which to appease his vanity; but found the price too high, became irritated and showed himself to be a quitter. But he will renew the chase later on. That's the way of his kind. Ankney is an example. Twice before he succeeded, he was a candidate for the senate, with the price in his clothes with which to pay for the gaudy bauble, but while he was "dickering" for a better bargain, shrewd politicians stepped in and captured the place. Once a disreputable newspaper man named Museter, a former penitentiary bird, pocketed \$15,000 that had been entrusted to him to pay for a bunch of votes, skipped out and thereby fractured Ankney's heart and shattered his ambition for the time being.

Yes, the chances are that if Washington legislators are patient, they will yet see the color of Sweeney's dirty money.

Representative Smith, of Baker, is now famous. He has been cartooned by Hy Murphy, in the Oregonian. It is a good likeness.

Smith's bill, H. B. No. 184, providing for the posting of notices of annual assessment work on mining claims, which was favorably reported from the mining committee, of which the author of the bill is chairman, met opposition when it came up in the house from Linthicum, of Multnomah, and was referred. Smith, in support of the measure said that numbers of claims are held down by men who work only one claim, but keep other miners away from the remainder of the group. Capron, of Multnomah, a member of the mining committee, back up Smith. Smith, of Josephine, contended that the subject was covered by the federal laws. The bill was therefore sent back to the committee.

What is known as Smith's corporation bill, has been defeated in the house by a vote of fifty-seven to one. This is not our prize legislator, but Smith, of Josephine county. This bill provided that a majority of the directors of any corporation may reside outside of the state, a provision which was included in the measure drafted by the Sumpter Miners' association for representative A. P. Smith to introduce, but which he didn't.

Linthicum, of Multnomah, took the floor and attacked the measure on the ground that it was a corporation measure of the worst kind. He said much had been heard about corporation legislation, but he knew of no bill more in the interests of corporation than this one. He objected to Oregon becoming like New Jersey, the home of the corporation.

Speaker Mills, called Miles, of Yamhill, to the chair, and assailed the measure. He branded it as a vicious measure and was surprised that the member from Josephine, whose voice had always been raised against the corporations, should come

in with a bill of this character. Under it, directors of corporations could live in Australia, New Zealand or anywhere. It was best to have them at home, said he, where they were responsible.

Smith was absent from the floor when the discussion started, and entered the house while the vote was being taken. He was told that the bill had been called vicious, and when his name was called, entered an objection to the word, and said it was a compliment to his absence. He asked unanimous consent to discuss the measure, and explained that the purpose of the bill was to encourage corporations to incorporate in this state with a view to increasing the revenue through filing fees. It was, he said, a matter of indifference to him whether the bill passed or not, and Mr. Smith voted against it by mistake.

Speaker Mills "took back" the word vicious, with the explanation that he would not associate vice of any kind with Mr. Smith.

Holcomb, of Multnomah, was the only other member who voted for the bill. He is chairman of the committee on corporations.

Senator Brownell's bill to provide for the calling of a constitutional convention has been acted on favorably by the senate committee on judiciary, and will doubtless come up for passage in the near future. The measure is considered an important one, and as such was given considerable attention by all members of the committee. According to the bill as it now stands, it is provided that the first vote to elect the representatives of the people to the proposed convention is to be held in June of the present year. The convention is to be held the following January, 1906, at which time the new constitution, it is expected, will be drafted, while at the general election in June, 1906, the people will be given a chance to ratify or reject the measure. There is every reason to believe that the bill will pass both houses of the legislature and become a law.

Senator Siebel may yet get his whipping-post bill, for the exclusive benefit of the wife-beating husband, through the senate. In its original form, to make wifebeating punishable by whipping alone, the committee was strongly opposed to the measure. It was amended, however by the introducer, so that it is a part and parcel of the section referring to assault and battery, and it is provided that the judge may, in his discretion, cause a husband who has beat his wife to be whipped. With this change, the bill has met the hearty approval of the judiciary committee, and will be so reported.

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