

# THE SUMPTER MINER.

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## SUMPTER SUMMARIZED

Its Past, Active Present and  
Promising Future.

## GOLD IN THE HILLS.

This the Foundation Upon Which Its Prosperity Rests.—Its Nature—Given Position to Command Local Commerce the Assurance of Permanency.—Most Active Camp on the Continent Today, and the Boom Has Scarcely Begun.

The death of the old and the birth of the new year always starts people who own thinking apparatuses to conjuring up the past and speculating on the future. With individuals these reveries, for such they are, usually partake of so intense a personal nature that they would interest no second party, and even if they should, said second party, unless a mind reader, will never penetrate the secrets of such musings with oneself, while yet the year is very young. There is a philosophical idea concealed in this awkwardly constructed sentence, if the reader can only discover it, which redeems these apparently irrelevant remarks from being inexcusably inappropriate to what follows—for this story has nothing to do with sentiment; it deals exclusively with material facts.

Now, with a newspaper, as distinguished from the individual, although it may be very much the same, it is altogether different—and that's no josh, either—inasmuch as it can truthfully tell what this season, pregnant with thoughts of the past and hopes of the future, suggests relative to its locality, without embarrassment to itself or fear that the reader will yawn during its perusal; for those who are not interested in the past, present and future of Sumpter will skip even this brief recital of its long, uninteresting dormant period, its sudden awakening, its swift strides towards a position of importance in the world and the probabilities of its reaching that position.

Sumpter has been a "camp" for 10, these many years, and volumes could be written on its history, based on the semi-traditional tales told by the pioneers who happened in here during the early 'sixties and had neither the enterprise to move on or to take full advantage of what they had here, but THE MINER doesn't care to deal in ancient history.

Go back so short a time as one year, and, so far as Sumpter itself is concerned, little of interest can be found to record. It was merely an unattractive mountain village, the end of a logging road, the headquarters of two or three stage lines; it boasted of a general store, or maybe two, a hotel, blacksmith shop, a barber shop, where the he gossips congregated to discuss neighborhood news and wonder when another mining sale would be effected.

But even then, outside of the camp, a few miles in this direction, a trifle further off in that direction, and ten or fifteen miles over there, influences were at work which could not be prevented from calling into quick existence a thriving, prosperous town. For all around, in the neigh-

boring gulches, far up in the surrounding Blue mountains, gold was being taken out of the ground. Capital that had become rusty waiting for investment during the previous years of depression, its proverbial timidity having been overcome by impatience, sought here successfully an opportunity to secure that populist bugbear, the "unearned increment." Some months previous one or two of the more promising mines, that had been slowly developed by long, arduous individual labor, had come into the hands of enterprising men with money. Their value as gold producers had been established. This fact became noised around in Northwestern mining circles, and last spring many mining men, prospectors, promoters and capitalists, visited the district. They came, they saw and were conquered; the sleepy days of Sumpter and the Sumpter mining district were past.

Six months ago the impetus began to be felt, some weeks later the name of Sumpter "got into the papers" and the camp and its fame have been spreading and growing ever since. In August the deal was consummated whereby a syndicate of northern capitalists, from Butte, Spokane and Roseland, purchased 100 lots in the then platted town and about 600 acres of adjoining land. That set the proposition afire, and since then all real estate and mining boom records have been smashed.

It is not necessary to give a job lot of statistics in detail to prove the accuracy of this assertion. The time has been too short, the growth too rapid and those mixed up in the transaction too busy for any statistics of a reliable nature to have been compiled. Those who have been here during this brief period, about four months, know that the population has increased from 400 or 500 to about 2500; that the price and value of business property has jumped up on an average of 500 per cent, and in some cases the increase has been ten fold; that residence property has increased proportionately; that rents have more than quadrupled, and that today almost any price which one has the nerve to ask can be secured for either business houses or residences. The volume of business transacted here has kept pace with the growth along other lines, as is evidenced by the multiplication of business houses and the fact that all are kept busy, and frankly confess that they are making money. This is today the most active, prosperous mining camp on the American continent.

And do the conditions warrant this state of affairs? Well, there is gold in the mountains; plenty of it. This has been demonstrated by the successful operation of mines, by primitive methods, for twenty years.

During the past year or eighteen months the most improved modern appliances have been employed and the results are still more satisfactory. The most famous mining experts in the world have placed the seal of their approval on the district. Conservative mining men and their representatives from every where are here with barrels of money to buy anything from a promising prospect to a developed, producing mine, prices ranging from a thousand to a million dollars, and sales are being made daily. Hundreds of properties are being opened and no discouraging report has yet been made public. Every one in a position to judge, say that one of the greatest stampedes in the history of the West will head this way in the early spring; the O. R. & N. officials declare that at least 20,000 people will come to the Sumpter district this year.

And when any one tells you that Sumpter will not receive far the greater portion

of this immigration and the resulting benefits, turn your further investigation to your informant's motives, and it will be found that he is endeavoring to turn the tide away from Sumpter, that his interests lie elsewhere. Nature gave to Sumpter the position of commercial command in these mountains and no human effort can take from her the scepter.

With these known facts as a basis on which to estimate the future of the camp and district, the reader must form his own opinion. That the future is bright with rich promise, is the sure thing; the extent of the growth reaches into the boundless realm of mental speculation—and there is where THE MINER draws the line; "rings off."

## HYDRANTS FINALLY ARRIVE.

Fifteen Will Be in Position by Saturday Evening.

The long waited for hydrants have finally arrived; twenty-eight in all, fifteen of which are now being placed in position. This work, Foreman Cornfield says, will be finished by Saturday night, when the water will be turned into the mains from the reservoir.

Coming down from the reservoir on Mill street, where the big main is laid, the first hydrant is located near the corner of High street; the next is at North, the third at Granite, the fourth at Auburn, the fifth at Austin. At Austin and Bonanza there is another. On North street, besides the one at the corner of Mill, there will be placed one on Bonanza and another on Cracker. On Cracker there will be one on the corner of Granite and another near the warehouses, at the head of Auburn, and one at the intersection of Auburn and Bonanza. On Granite, the two already mentioned, at Cracker and Mill, and two to the east of Mill, near the school house, and one still further on.

## J. H. Stoddard Buys 1,530,000 Feet of Logs.

Manager Stoddard, of the Sumpter Lumber company, denies the report that his company will build a mill on the Tietjen tract near town. He says that he has bought the timber thereon, estimated to be a million and a half feet, and now has one outfit logging there and hauling to his mill here. His contract allows him a year in which to remove the timber. The water ditch broke last night, north of town, and the mill was shut down a few hours this morning while repairs were being made.

## Meeting of Fire Department This Evening.

About \$300 was realized from the ball given New Year evening for the benefit of the Sumpter fire department. It was equally successful socially, as it was financially. During the evening, at the request of Chief Shelton, Attorney Richards announced that there would be a meeting in Ellis opera house this, Wednesday, evening, for the purpose of perfecting the organization of the volunteer fire department, and requested all the young men of the town to attend.

## Work, Work, All the Time.

Joseph Barton, general freight and passenger agent of the Sumpter Valley road, is in town today. Speaking of the immense business the road is doing, he said: "It is work, work, all the time," and that is the feature of the situation that has evidently left its impression on him, one of the officials who bears the extra burden imposed. He thinks realty values are too high here.

## New Furniture Store.

W. H. Allen has secured the building on Center street, in the rear of the Sumpter Meat market, and will put in a full line of house furnishing goods, furniture, cooking utensils, tinware and so forth. He will also deal in second hand goods.

## STRIKE IN BUNKER HILL

### LEDGE OF PAY ROCK UNCOVERED IN THE CROSSCUT.

Twenty-Five Feet in Width and Assays \$6 to \$22 in Gold—Another Case of "Never a Failure in the Sumpter District When You Go Down"—Company Owns Three Claims on the Famous E. & E. Lode—Prominent Canadians the Principal Owners.

Another mine has been added to the list of those which can be cited to prove the claim that there has never been a failure in this district to find good pay rock where they have gone down deep.

The Bunker Hill had an excellent surface showing, the outcroppings standing in places forty feet high, but the values were low. Had the property not been so favorably situated, it would have required much nerve and little judgment to spend large sums of money in development work, considering the unfavorable assays. But it is known to be on the same ledge as the North Pole, E. & E., Columbia and Golconda on the northeast, with the now no less famous Ibez to the southwest, and on that true fissure vein, where values have invariably increased with depth, it was correctly thought that success was merely a matter of intelligent and sufficient development; and on this basis of calculation the work was inaugurated.

The ledge was tapped December 8, when the crosscut had been driven 300 feet through country rock, at which point the vein is 25 feet in width. Since then they have been drifting on the ledge, and up to Dec. 31 had gone 100 feet. Indiscriminate assays of ore from here run from six to twenty-two dollars in gold—and that's pay rock.

The Bunker Hill company owns three claims, one from which its name is derived, the Myrtle, the Lilac and a mill site, also called the Bunker Hill. The head office of the company is in Sherbrooke, Province of Quebec. The officers are: President, Hon. M. H. Cochrane, who is vice-president of the Eastern Townships Bank, of Canada; vice-president, C. A. French; secretary and treasurer, Frank Thompson, of the banking firm of Frank Thompson & Co., all of Sherbrooke. J. J. Penhale has charge of the office here in Sumpter, and in his capacity as general manager of the company, is directing the development work. Among the directors are some of the leading statesmen and bankers of Canada, and one or two prominent mining men of Spokane.

Twenty men have been employed in the mine since August, and a depth of 125 feet has been reached. Sinking will be the plan of development in future. The company has on hand a complete compressor plant, which has not yet been used, and it is quite probable that this will soon be installed, which will facilitate more rapid development work, than by the old means of hand drilling.

The time is not far off when a mill will be required, making one more complete mine to be added to the Sumpter district.

## Death of Henry Duckworth.

Henry Duckworth, an old and much respected citizen, died at McEwen today of pneumonia. Funeral services and burial Friday at his home.