

The Sumpter Miner

Official Paper of the Town of Sumpter.

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TWO feet of snow and mild, spring-like weather is the record of the past month in Sumpter.

THIS "proposition" has progressed so much faster than any one anticipated, that many feel as if they had made grave mistakes in not inaugurating contemplated enterprises last fall, instead of waiting until spring.

WATER has been turned into the mains, the fire department has been organized and the fire apparatus has arrived. The next number on the program ought to be a reduction of fire insurance rates, but THE MINER is not predicting any such good fortune for the town.

EVERY paper in the state calls attention to the new election law, which requires registration in order to vote. The law provides that those for whom it is not convenient to register with the county clerk, can do so before a notary public or justice of the peace, no fee being required. THE MINER has not yet seen it stated how these officials are paid for this extra work.

WHO drinks all the whiskey sold over the bars of Sumpter's fifteen saloons is an interesting question. Of course, there are a few chronic drunks here, as there are in all other towns; and, of course, too, the business and working men are not generally total abstainers; but they do not drink to excess, being wise and knowing the importance of keeping a clear head. It surely must be the hundreds of visitors arriving daily who are making millionaires of the saloon men.

MILL street lots have gone up in price about \$1500 in ten days, and at present one can't be bought, apparently, for any money. There has been some fool talk about their value reaching \$20,000, and owners seem to be acting as if they take some stock in that pipe dream. This will drive business elsewhere, in some other direction. Now, just remember this more or less dogmatic assertion. The business district of this town will inevitably expand, and when the move is inaugurated, present air castle values, both for sale and for rent, will fall to a rational level.

AND now a Washington scientist declares that he has perfected a device, consisting of mirrors and an ordinary convex glass, which enables him to concentrate the sun's rays over the space of an acre into the area of a few square inches. With this he promises to knock out the coal barons and fuel trusts. He hasn't yet explained how he proposes to overcome the obstacle thrown in his path to success and deathless renown by Nature, which has so perversely arranged things that warmth is needed most when the sun's rays have been intercepted by clouds, when our friend, the scientist, can't handle them with his glasses. He must rig up some sort of an apparatus for storing the sun's heat and peddle it out as needed—before he can expect to win the fame and abuse now lavished on the dealer in ice.

THE cuckoo press is showering gibes and joshes and sneers on Senator Pettigrew, on account of his resolutions calling for investigation relative to certain phases of the war in the Philippines. These small, smooth-bore editors are endeavoring to make the senator appear ridiculous, but they will never succeed. He has more brains than a car load of these silly scribblers. He is a veteran in politics and political warfare, and from every contest thus far has emerged a victor. It is evident to those who are familiar with his tactics that he is now on the war path, hunting for scalps; that he knows exactly whose scalp locks he wishes to attach to his belt and in what locality the enemy is concealed. It is a long shot proposition that Mr. Pettigrew secures the desired trophies and that the objects of his animosity are now trembling with fear in their concealment.

A MAN who committed suicide at Baker City last week, in his farewell address, suggested that the minister to whom he wrote should preach a sermon on the evil effects of gambling, to which he attributed his fall and resulting ignoble death. No one should have known better than the weak deceased how entirely futile is mere preaching against the evils to which the human family is heir, from a list of which gambling is never omitted, and against which as many warnings have been wasted as on all the others combined. For hundreds of years the chronic, constitutional reformers have waged almost barbarous battle against these alleged vices, and he who thinks good results have been attained by these persistent, well meant, but ill-advised efforts, is indulging in an iridescent dream. Herbert Spencer, than whom no one ever lived who was more profoundly learned in the lore of man's mind and heart, has pointed out and demonstrated in his characteristic, irrefutable manner, that neither men, women nor children are saved from moral danger by the warnings of others; that experience is the best because, it is the only teacher in such matters. But it is as difficult to get this idea acted upon by the self-constituted world regulators as they find it to persuade men to be good.

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