

## The Sumpter Miner

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The initial velocity of a petition to the throne of grace is not necessarily in proportion to its carrying power.

Getting crowned in Great Britain is an expensive luxury. According to an official report recently rendered to parliament, putting King Edward and Queen Alexandra through the coronation ceremonies cost the exchequer a cool \$2,000,000.

An Indiana doctor claims to have accomplished the spontaneous generation of animal life in the form of insects from certain chemical compounds. His name is Dr. Charles Littlefield, and he showed some scientific men the other day that he really did do the thing, at least a press report says so. This spontaneous generation business is getting to be painfully common. It's a pipe dream which seems destined to take the place of the sea serpent story.

The Slocum disaster has stimulated the government to act in the direction of duty with reference to the re-inspection of every sort of craft in New York harbor. A force of government steamboat inspectors have been detailed for the work, and will make a thorough examination of all vessels in the harbor. Of course it is better late than never but if this duty had been performed sooner the Slocum disaster might have been averted.

A prominent Texas cotton planter is going to apply for an injunction to prevent the government importing Guatemalan ants to put a quietus on the boll weevil. He thinks the remedy worse than the disease. The cotton, he says, is picked by negroes whose combined attire is not enough to make a whole shirt, and by barefooted negro children, and if an army of these ants were turned loose among them there would naturally be a stampede. The ants may do away with the weevil, but the negro would probably be exterminated also, or at least run out of the country. It might be a good idea to provide the negro with a coat of mail.

The bulk of the disasters which have occurred this year have been largely due to criminal carelessness on the part of inspecting authorities, and general incompetence. There is hardly a reasonable excuse for either the Slocum or Norge catastrophes, but even that they occurred through causes impossible to foresee or prevent, the loss of human life would have been greatly minimized, had the vessels been properly equipped with fire fighting and life-saving apparatus. It has been shown in the instance of the late Norge disaster that many of the life preservers were rotten, and there was an insufficient number of life boats. In addition to this the steamer carried a number of passengers far in excess of her legal limit. Carelessness of this

nature amounts to little less than murder in the first degree.

The first gavel used at the first meeting of the American Mining Congress was presented to Hon. L. Bradford Prince, president, at the Denver Colorado, meeting, in July 1, 1897, by Professor George Knapp, of Chicago, says the Mining World. The handle was made from the wood of the ship that carried the "Liberty Bell" around the world on its message of freedom; in the head were five pieces, the first of which was a portion of a rail split by Abraham Lincoln; the second was from the great charter oak tree; the third was from Washington's home at Mt. Vernon; the fourth from the elm tree under which Washington stood when he assumed command of the continental armies, and the fifth was from Colorado, taken from the flagstaff that was used on the Colorado building at the World's Columbian Exposition.

On the surface the report of commercial insolvencies for the six months ended on June 30 is distinctly unfavorable, says the New York Commercial. The liabilities involved amount to \$79,500,000 as against \$66,800,000, for the corresponding period of 1903 and the number of failures amounts to 6,124, as against 5,628 for the first half of last year.

A slight analysis of these figures, however, serves to indicate that general business conditions remain sound. The bulk of the commercial insolvencies for the last six months consists of manufacturing and mercantile suspensions, the liabilities of which amounted to \$61,700,000. This, however, was only \$5,000,000 in excess of the liabilities of similar concerns during the first half of 1903, before the present lull in business activity fairly began to be manifest. The largest share of the increase in the liabilities of insolvents for the last half year was due to commercial failures other than those classed under the head of manufacturing and trading failures. The liabilities thus involved aggregated nearly \$8,000,000 more than those of similar failures for the corresponding period of last year.

An encouraging feature of the report of commercial suspensions for the last six months is that by far the heaviest failures measured by the liabilities involved, occurred during the first three months, thus indicating that the country has probably witnessed the worst of these reverses, at least for the present. Thus, the liabilities of the suspended concern aggregated \$18,200,000 in January, \$15,800,000 in February and \$13,000,000 in March, or more than 70 per cent of the total for the entire half year. For May these liabilities had dwindled to \$9,800,000 and for June to \$8,500,000.

It is true that banking failures, as distinguished from strictly commercial failures, have been numerous and severe in the last six months. In number they were 59, involving liabilities to the amount of \$17,000,000, as contrasted with 44 suspension involving liabilities amounting to \$6,500,000, for the first half of 1903. These failures, however, have been largely, if not chiefly, due to speculation, and reflect business conditions in only a small degree, if indeed they reflect such conditions in any degree whatever. Such failures are frequent in the most prosperous of times.

The business outlook, accordingly, is for smoother sailing in the im-

mediate future. Most of the great crops promise to be abundant, industrial corporations and business concerns in general have adopted a policy of conservatism, carefully eschewing anything savoring of taking chances, and working people show less of a disposition to plunge into disputes with employers. In these circumstances there is reason to believe that business will not long remain in the doldrums.

### OFFICIAL RECORDS.

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

#### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

- DEEDS.
- July 11—Laura A. Smith and husband to Alice Campbell, 100x375 feet northwest corner Grove and Campbell streets; \$2,500.
- July 2—Annie E. Cook to Ansell Cook, 160 acres in Sec. 20 T. 10 R. 38 E.; \$155.
- March 9—State of Oregon to Jno. Obelrich, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16 T. 7 R. 41 E.; \$50.
- July 11—Jno. T. Parkinson to W. Fernald, lot 1 block B Bowden's addition to Baker City; \$900.
- May 11—Stella M. Wilson and husband to Wm. Coffey, west 60 acres of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25 T. 8 R. 39; \$1,250.
- April 1—U. S. A. to T. P. Duncan, 80 acres in Secs. 17 and 20 T. 8 R. 42.
- Aug. 14, '03—Chas. Keller and wife to Zeno Denny et al lots 2 and Hunt's addition to Pine, and tract 51x100 feet adjoining; \$1,500.
- June 27—T. McHan and wife to John Pearson, 160 acres in Sec. 8 T. 7 R. 43; E. \$2,500.
- June 25—E. Voigne and wife to J. Pearson, 160 acres in Sec. 31 T. 6 R. 43 E.; \$2,000.
- July 5—C. J. Osborne and wife to Davis Wilcox, N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34 T. 7 R. 38 E.; \$800.
- April 10, '01—N. C. Haskell et al to A. Lentz, lot 10 Block 17 Haskell addition to Baker City; \$100.
- Dec. 4—Minnie A. Hughes and husband to Anna Dean, lots 6, 7 and 8 block P De Roo's addition to Baker City; \$1,400.
- April 14—P. Basche and wife to H. Fick,  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest in Snake River ditch; \$1.
- July 2—Alec S. Watt to Fred L. Downey, lots 17 and 18 block 2 Pacific addition to Baker City; \$100.

#### MINING MATTERS.

- DEEDS.
- April 18—Jno. J. Hennessy to Terence L. B. Murphy, lot 3 block 8 syndicate's first addition to Sumpter, and Esparanza group of quartz claims; \$500.
- July 2—A. Tyler and wife to J. Bourne, Jr., Van Winkle & Kindon quartz claims; \$1.
- June 30—C. G. Green to Oregon Free Gold Mines company; Golden Horseshoe and 4 mining claims; \$6,000.
- Nov. 18—Thos. Turner to Chas. Burgess, lot 7 block 9 Cornucopia quartz claim; \$50.
- July 17, '03—H. R. and E. B. Graves to C. G. Green, interest in placer claims in Lost Basin and Powell creek canon; \$450.
- A. J. Stinson et al to Sumpter Light and Water company, right of way across Stinson & Granger's placer claim for pipe line; \$500.
- L. McVicker and husband to Sumpter Light and Water company, right of way over Ben Walker placer claim; \$1.

## REPETITION OF HEPNER FLOOD

### Water Wall Twenty-five Feet High, and Residents Fly to Hills.

An Associated press dispatch of yesterday from Arlington says:

The residents of Heppner and Mitchell experienced a thrilling repetition of the great catastrophe of last June, last evening, and while the damage is very slight at the former place, Mitchell residents were compelled to flee to the hills for safety. A wall of water twenty-five feet high came down Bridge and Mill creeks, which unite about three hundred yards above town. The flood claimed two victims, Martin Smith, a man nearly 100 years old, and Mrs. Bethune, an aged woman living there. It also carried away twenty-five houses in the mad rush on. Everything below Looney's store was carried away. Two large livery stables with twenty horses were lost. Oakes Mercantile company's store, Waterman's store and the flour mill escaped being wrecked, but the first mentioned lost ten tons of barbed wire. There was little rain at Mitchell but the thunder and lightning gave the inhabitants warning that a flood or cloudburst might be expected, so they prepared for it. Over half of the population fled to the high hills bordering the valley and the others prepared for the water when it suddenly rushed upon them. Two aged people who met their death by drowning refused to accompany the others to the hills, feeling the alarm unnecessary.

The excitement at Heppner was even greater than at Mitchell, for the people have hardly recovered from the nervous strain of last year. The flood damage at this point was confined to the washing away of bridges and the weakening of the O. R. & N. bridges at Lexington. The creek rose suddenly and with a rush overflowed its banks, but there was no great volume of water as at Mitchell. No reports have come in from the farming sections, so it is impossible to state what damage has been done to crops, herds and ranch property.

#### Turner's Automobile.

Randall Turner, of Bourne, having conceived the idea that an automobile passenger service in Baker City would be a paying enterprise, is here with one of the finest machines ever seen in these parts. It is a handsome twelve horse power, two-seated machine, designed for five passengers. It was purchased in San Francisco. Mr. Turner will place his machine on the streets in a day or so and will compete with the hack lines for passenger traffic.—Democrat.

#### Will Cut 15,000,000 Feet.

Manager Murphy, of the Grande Ronde Lumber company's big mill at Imbler, announces that his company will this year cut fifteen million feet of lumber.—Herald.