

SCHOOL OPENED MONDAY.

Increase in Attendance Over Last Year of More Than 33 Per Cent.

After a delay of a week, due to uncompleted repairs in the building, the city school opened Monday, with Prof. W. L. Saling as principal and teacher of the higher grades, assisted by Miss Anna A. Myers, who has charge of the primary grades. This is the second term here for both of these teachers, they having taught the school from October 3, 1898, to April 22, 1899, and gave entire satisfaction to patrons.

The last session continued seven months; this one will be of eight months duration, the length of time being regulated by the district trustees, and they in turn controlled by the state of the finances.

During the early days of the term beginning last October, 84 pupils were enrolled, 43 girls and 41 boys. The school closed with 114 in attendance. The following month, May of the present year, the school census showed that 161 children of school age resided in this district.

At the close of school Tuesday evening of this week there were enrolled 112 pupils, 60 boys and 52 girls. This is not a fair comparison, however, with the 84 enrolled last session, for these latter figures represented the number a couple of weeks or more after the opening day, while the 112 is the number registered during the first two days. But even on this basis the increase is a trifle over 33 per cent.

Ordinarily the school census and attendance forms a very accurate basis on which to calculate the population, but in this community such is not the case. The reason therefore is obvious. There has been a very great and sudden increase in the population of Sumpter during the past three or four months; many men have come here to reside, but have not yet brought their families, there being no houses in which to lodge them.

Sumpter May Soon Have a Smelter.

P. R. Bishop, of the Climax mine, made a hurried visit to Sumpter today for the purpose of meeting Mr. H. Meinhard, president of the Union Smelter Manufacturing company, of St. Louis, who has come here to look over the field with a view to assisting financially the enterprise of building a smelter here—incidentally, of course, expecting to sell the machinery therefor. There is no question but what Sumpter should have a smelter, and that it would be a paying proposition, as there are innumerable low grade properties in the vicinity, the ore from which does not pay to ship to distant reduction works, but could be treated here at a handsome profit to both mine owner and smelter. THE MINER hopes Messrs. Bishop and Meinhard will succeed in the worthy effort to promote the enterprise.

Has Face of a Bishop, the Heart of a Sport.

Don Donaldson, representing the Idaho Statesman, was in town this week jolly-ing up the people and doing business for his paper, which is the only daily with Associated press dispatches that reaches Sumpter on the day of publication. He says this camp is the easiest thing he ever got mixed up with; that judging from his experience it has never before been touched by the despoiler, of hypnotic powers. Mr. Donaldson is a gentleman of striking appearance; is six feet and a few inches high, of unlimited avoirdupois, has the smooth face of a bishop, the heart of a sport, the appetite of a hired man, and wears a Fedora that measures two feet from tip to tip.

Fabulously Rich Golconda Rock.

Mr. English, owner of the Golconda mine, has for two or three weeks past been showing around town wonderfully rich samples of ore from his property. The rock is full of fine gold in large particles, some samples shown actually containing more gold than quartz. All transpor-

tation companies handling this rock, now send armed guards along with it, as if it were refined bullion. J. T. English left Sumpter some days since for San Francisco, via Portland, with a carload of ore from the Golconda, taken from the fabulously rich pocket opened two or three weeks since, consigned to the Selby Brothers' smelter. He expects it to run \$8,000 per ton, or \$160,000 for the car. Another car of ore not quite so rich is to be shipped after Mr. English returns from the coast. These gentlemen, father and son, recently bonded a mine in Mount Baker district, up in the Puget Sound country, where very rich ores abound, but in a very inaccessible locality.

EXHIBIT SUMPTER ORES.

Collections to be sent to both Spokane and Portland Fairs.

R. R. Erwin has raised \$300 by popular subscription for the purpose of making an exhibit of Sumpter district ores at the Spokane fair. Several gentlemen, who it is known will subscribe liberally, have not yet been seen. All except one mine owner, or manager, have consented to furnish samples from their properties. The work of collecting will begin in a few days and be completed in ample time to arrange the exhibit in the mineral department by the time the fair opens, October 3. Several gentlemen have made application to accompany the collection and remain with it, to "bark" for the Sumpter mining district. The man who goes should know his business.

For the Portland exposition B. L. McLain has with much labor collected excellent specimens. The exposition management furnished some of the money necessary for this purpose, but it is very probable that the Spokane fund will have to be drawn on to a slight extent. The O. R. & N. hauls these ores free.

Both Messrs. Erwin and McLain deserve much credit for the public spirited interest they have taken in this matter and the energy expended in attaining success.

Globe Trotter Settles in Sumpter

Major W. T. Manning, globe trotter, citizen of the world, whose friendship the writer has valued for twenty years, whom he has met in many places, is in Sumpter with the intention of locating here permanently and engaging in business. He recently reached the Northwest from Porto Rico, where he went shortly after the close of the war, leaving just prior to the big storm. Being an intelligent, observant traveler, he talks entertainingly of the customs, habits of the people, and conditions generally of Uncle Sam's new domain. Among the Major's many accomplishments are those of printer and newspaper man, which trades he learned early in life, but has not pursued for a number of years until he found THE MINER short handed, when he turned in and has rendered valuable assistance in getting out this issue, in both mechanical and editorial departments. Sumpter is fortunate in having him for a citizen.

Ben Harrison Showing Up Well.

The Ben Harrison group of mines, located on Clear Creek, nine miles from Granite, was bonded on February 12th to Messrs. Frank and Ehrenberg, mine operators of Spokane, consideration unknown, but around the \$100,000 mark. A ten foot ledge of free milling ore is exposed in the tunnel. The shaft is down 65 feet. The ledge is the width of the shaft and the foot wall has not been found, as the vein has not been crosscut. The ore assays \$12 in free gold. Mr. Ehrenberg has started development and says he will have a wonder in six months.

Burr's Brick Yard Rushed.

C. Y. Burr has about finished burning his second kiln of 250,000 brick this summer, and is building a third of the same number, 750,000 in all. Even though no brick has yet been laid in the walls of a house here yet, the demand has been good, being used in chimneys, foundations, etc. Now, however, as three brick blocks are about to be started, his yard will be rushed to its full capacity for the remainder of the season.

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