

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE GOLCONDA

LARGE EXPENDITURES PLANNED FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

**Will Increase Water Power to 500-Horse,
Eliminating Steam Entirely — New
Sinking Plant Goes in at Once,
Capable of Going Down 1200 Feet—
Now One Mile of Underground
Workings in the Mine.**

Golconda stock has been withdrawn from the market for about three months. When that wonderfully, marvelously rich ore shoot, that excited the mining world three years ago and was afterwards lost, was picked up last spring by the new company that had bought the mine only a few weeks previously, the stock sold so rapidly at the mere nominal price of fifteen or twenty cents, both at home and abroad, that sales were stopped. It was known that ten stamps would pay for all necessary development work, and as the stock was offered for that purpose only, there was no further need of selling it.

The new management has since then, by working every available man, demonstrated the fact that the Golconda contains not only the richest gold-bearing rock ever found in a true fissure vein, but that it contains large bodies of lower grade ore, running from five to forty dollars a ton—in other words, it has been proven to be one of the great mines of the world. With its present equipment, ore that carries less than ten dollars in gold per ton has been considered too low grade to mill and has been thrown on the waste dump. Everyone knows that with modern appliances and economical management this grade of ore can be mined and milled at a large profit.

It is for the purpose of raising the necessary funds for making these needed improvements to meet this emergency that stock in this company is again offered for sale, and Lee S. Ovitt, Merrill building, Milwaukee, has been made the fiscal agent, having the exclusive sale of treasury stock—and none other can be bought. In the selection of Mr. Ovitt to handle this end of the business, the Golconda management has pursued the same wise policy that has characterized its actions since taking hold of this property; for that gentleman has demonstrated his preeminent ability for the work in hand by his brilliant success in financing two or more other similar enterprises in eastern Oregon alone.

In talking with President Robbins and Secretary Howard regarding the projected improvements at the Golconda, some interesting facts were learned. The latter, a civil engineer, has been at the mine for a couple of weeks past, making some surveys, and has the facts and figures at his fingers' ends, while Mr. Robbins has, with other officers and directors and mining engineers, been planning the gigantic improvements.

The first and most essential change will be to increase the water and electric power to such an extent that steam power will be entirely eliminated in the operation of the mine, thus reducing costs to the minimum. At present about 100-horse power is generated by water and electricity, which is sufficient to operate only the stamps and air compressor, the hoist and pumps being worked by steam. The water now has a fall of only 385 feet. By extending the pipe line 7000 feet further up Silver creek a head of 750 feet is secured. Larger pipe will be put in the entire dis-

tance, which, with the aid of more powerful dynamos, will generate at least 500-horse power. In addition to this, a natural reservoir, 750 feet further up the mountain, through which flows Meadow creek, one of Silver creek's tributaries, will be improved. A dam will be constructed there, fifty feet high and 200 feet long, that will confine the waters in an area of about 100 acres, making a reservoir that will hold all the snow water from the Sawtooth range. This not only insures an ample supply of water during the dry season, but renders it possible to increase the power indefinitely. Men are already engaged there on the preliminary work.

A new sinking plant will be installed at once, capable of going down 1200 feet. The hoist and pumps now used are really the only weak points in the mine's equipment. The capacity of the other machinery will merely have to be increased, while the sinking plant is entirely inadequate even at the present time. The new hoist and pumps will be operated by electric power.

The mill now has twenty stamps and rolls equal to ten more, giving it a crushing capacity of thirty stamps, or about 100 tons a day. The addition of other stamps will be the last work of improvement to be undertaken. Speaking of the mill run for the past two months, Mr. Robbins said:

"We started the stamps dropping, only ten of them, merely because that was the easiest way to handle the ore taken out in extending our workings. We have done no stopping, but have run through the mill all rocks taken out, good, bad and indifferent, except the very little of the extremely rich ore that was encountered in a winze on No. 2 level. We have mined of that ore only what was absolutely necessary and haven't put a pound of it under the stamps. An upraise is now being driven from No. 3 to No. 2 level, in order to stop this rich rock when we want it."

There is now just about one mile of underground workings in the Golconda, something over 5000 feet. The shaft is down 500 feet, which is 800 feet below the highest outcroppings. The adit tunnel is not more than 600 feet in length, and the remainder consists of levels run from the shaft. This surely is enough work to prove a mine, to justify the proposed expenditure of a couple of hundred thousand dollars on modern equipment, to make it a tremendous dividend payer—to make of the mine what its name implies, a veritable Golconda.

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