

PUT THE MONEY IN HIS POCKET

It Was Intended to Pay For Work Done For United Exploration Co.

Some weeks since men who had been working on contracts for the United Exploration company filed liens on its properties, amounting to something over \$1,700. This is the company that has taken over the mines owned by W. E. Hurd in eastern Oregon, in which he retains the controlling interest.

To day Mayor McColloch received a letter from the company, the headquarters of which is in Boston, placing the case in his hands for defense. In this letter it is stated that money had been sent to the former superintendent, David P. Muir, to pay all claims, and if they had not been liquidated, then he had put it in his own pocket.

Attorney McColloch has not yet had time to investigate the matter, nor learn where Muir now is. It is thought that he will probably claim that he took the money to pay what the company owed him for services rendered; though, of course, this is merely a surmise. If he doesn't enter this plea, there will be a criminal charge against him.

W. E. Hurd is expected in Boston at an early day, when the matter will be settled, one way or another.

Three Old-Fashioned Barometers.

There is an old chap in Brooklyn who has three barometers, as he styles them—a cat, a hive of bees and a bundle of corn fodder. As every farmer knows full well, corn fodder is extremely sensitive to hygrometric changes. When dry and crisp it indicates fair weather; when damp and limp, look out for rain. A bee was never caught in a shower, therefore, when his bees leave their hive in search of honey he knows that the weather is going to be good. As for the cat—everyone knows about the tricks of pussy and tabby. The act of washing the face—a sort of dry wash with the forepaw—is a sure sign of a change in the weather; if below the eyes only, fair weather; if over the ears, rain. If puss licks her hair against the grain or sits with her tail to the fire, look out for squalls.—New York Press.

Facts About Cobalt.

Cobalt does not occur native. The ores of cobalt number a half dozen or more. It is used mainly in the form of oxide, an earthy cobalt or black cobalt oxide, known as asbolite. It occurs usually mixed with oxide of manganese as a bog ore or secondary product. It is quite plentiful at Mine La Motte in Missouri and the main supply of this country comes from there. Cobalt is obtained in Silesia, New Caledonia and other places in connection with nickel ores. It is a metal of steel gray color and specific gravity of about 8.6. It much resembles nickel, the atomic weights of the two metals being similar, and the specific gravities vary but little. They both possess a like ductility and tenacity and are always associated. Cobalt, were it more plentiful in metallic form, could be used

for the same purpose that nickel is put to. The important ores of the metal are cobaltite, smaltite, linnaeite and the oxide. The largest production of cobalt is in Saxony, Bohemia and Norway. The main value of cobalt is in pigments. Its protoxide furnishes an intense and beautiful blue color of importance in painting and especially in the decoration of porcelain and glass. Cobalt oxide is made at Camden, New Jersey, by the American nickel works. The price paid for ore containing cobalt runs from eight to ten dollars per ton per unit of metal or ore carrying a minimum of four per cent. Co. O.—Mining World.

DEVELOPMENT FUND ASSURED

Manager Jas. A. Howard of the Golconda, who returned from Pendleton the other day, coming up from Baker by wagon, hurried out to the property on his arrival as if he had something weighty on his mind. When seen today on his return, he said that while he is not authorized to make any statement as to what would be done the coming summer he thought in justice to the present stockholders it was his duty to say that the Wade holdings, sold at auction on the 8th instant, were purchased by a syndicate composed of friends and largest stockholders of the corporation, that every effort will be put forth to make the property one of the best on the lode and to conserve the best interests of all stockholders.

It has been known by these familiar with Golconda affairs, since the purchase of the property by the present company that in order to put this mine in the permanent dividend paying class, a large development fund must be provided. This fund was promised to Mr. Howard at the time he took charge, over a year ago, but owing to the sloughing off of stock by some of the largest holders, and the subsequent financial embarrassment of Mr. Wade, the board of directors found themselves unable to produce any development fund whatever. It is now understood that ways and means will at once be devised and a strong effort made to raise sufficient funds to carry out the original plan of development, and to make such improvements and additions to the milling facilities of the property as may be necessary. If this fund can be provided, and the management of the mine seems sanguine that it can be, there is no doubt in the minds of any of the well informed mining men of the district but that the future of the Golconda will be very bright for stockholders.

Anaconda Largest Silver Producer.

The Anaconda Mining company, of Montana, is the largest producer of silver in the world, this company having an annual production of 5,500,000 ounces each year. The Broken Hill Proprietary Mining company, of Australia, is second in point of silver production, it having an output of silver for 1903 of 5,217,300 ounces. Next comes another American mine, viz: the Daly West of Utah with a reported production of 4,382,228 ounces of silver for 1903. The mines of the Couer d'Alene come next in importance in silver production, though they are individually not in a class with any of the above properties, the Couer d'Alene's total production of a dozen mines footing up for 1903, 5,696,421 ounces.

GRAND UNION AND BUCKHORN

Hon. George Barrett Back And Will Start Work at These Prop- erties.

George J. Barrett, the mining man of Granite, returned today from an extended trip to Chicago and Milwaukee. Mr. Barrett went east to confer with business associates who are interested with him in the Grand Union, and to raise money for prosecuting development work at the property.

His mission was successful, and work will be resumed about the first of the month, or just as soon as the snow is sufficiently gone to permit operations. Mr. Barrett says he now has all the cash necessary at his command, and plenty more on tap when it is needed. His plan is to continue the crosscut, which is now in 1,200 feet, until it reaches the main lead. Already five good ledges have been cut.

In addition to this Mr. Barrett has taken a contract from Manager Wright at the Buckhorn, in which property he is also interested. Here the two splendid ledges will be drifted on. Mr. Barrett will likewise begin work at the Buckhorn about May 1.

Speaking of conditions east he says there is no difficulty whatever to be encountered in raising money for legitimate mining operations.

BELLA KADISH IS BACK FROM MEXICO

Bela Kadish, of Baker City, was up today looking after his various interests here. Mr. Kadish returned only a few days ago from the City of Mexico, where he spent some time on business matters. He saw Fred D. Smith, manager of the Snow Creek mine, in the City of Mexico. Mr. Smith told him he would be back in Sumpter about the first of the month.

Mr. Kadish was much pleased with business conditions in Mexico. He says there is a great influx of American capital, and that the government is most liberal in its attitude toward encouraging foreign capital. A report is expressed that President Diaz will soon pass off the scene, by reason of old age. However, his liberal policies are so firmly engrafted that little fear is expressed of a change in the present trend of government.

There is Luck in Mining.

In 1855, at Spanish Dry Diggings, El Dorado county, California, some prospectors sank to bedrock, a distance of three or four feet, and found nothing. Three Missourians, who had just reached the state after a trip across the plains, came to the spot and dug six inches deeper and found rich diggings. During the summer they took out \$60,000 apiece and two of them went back home rich men. The third gambled and drank his money away, thinking he could strike another pile when he wanted to do so. He never did so, however, and is now in his old age eking out a scanty subsistence in a sheep herder's camp in Tulare county.—Mining and Engineering Review.



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