



THE SUMPTER MINER

Oregon Historical Society
City Hall

THAT GOLCONDA DEAL STILL "UP IN THE AIR"

Manager Howard Says Papers Have Not Been Signed Nor Agreement in Detail Reached.

For some days past there has been considerable said and written regarding a pending deal for the transfer of the Golconda to the Geiser-Hendryx company. The newspaper stories have been sent out from Pendleton, some of them being permeated with malice and falsely colored; notably the story published in the Spokesman-Review. It looks as if this stuff was inspired by some interested party; by whom and for what purpose The Miner does not know. Nor is it sufficiently familiar with conditions to make even a good guess.

It has, however, been reliably and authentically informed that this premature publication of the fact that some sort of a deal is pending, accompanied by the distortion of facts, has had the effect of interrupting negotiations and complicating the difficulties already encountered in consummating the deal.

When questioned regarding the matter last Friday, Manager J. A. Howard, of the Golconda company, stated that there was a deal pending; but requested that nothing be said about the matter at that time and his wishes in the matter were respected. Yesterday he thought that he would be able to give out the story within a day or so.

He said that, as the manager of the mine and the largest individual stockholder in the company, he would most certainly know when any deal affecting the property had been made and that no deal has yet been consummated with any person or firm, transferring the ownership or management of the property.

Mr. Howard says, however, that when all of the newspapers have had their say and gotten through he will probably have something to say to the interested public.

Mr. Howard was asked regarding the statement made from Pendleton on the fifteenth instant and published in the Portland Telegram and Spokesman-Review he says:

"This story evidently emanates from the same colossal liar that wired the Spokesman the infamous lie

anent the great damages to Pendleton and Umatilla country by the storm of the third instant.

"When this Ananias says that the Golconda mine is 'literally papered' with mortgages and that mechanics liens were placed upon it, he again shows his penchant for lying and misrepresentation, for no mechanics liens and but two small mortgages were ever placed against the property since this company was organized and the mine and all of the machinery and other property belonging to the company are in much better shape in every way than when this corporation took charge of it. And while the property is in debt a few thousand dollars, this is a great deal more than offset by the fact that it has developed and has in sight at the present time profitable milling ore of the value of many times the corporation's indebtedness, besides having added to the equipment of the property and out lay in betterments a sum almost equal to the present total indebtedness."

POLITICIANS SEE THE LIGHT

If there is any one development in national politics more than another which interests the mining man this year it is the credit which he is receiving on all sides for the settlement of a disturbing issue. Behold, it is observed by the wise men of the East that the enormous production of gold throughout the world during the last eight years has removed the troublesome question of the standard of money "from the field of political contention." The quoted phrase is the language which narrowly missed finding a place in the democratic platform, but though this plank has been relegated to oblivion, it has received sufficient publicity to make the gold miners

happy.

Eight years ago the country passed through one of the bitterest political campaigns it has ever known. The republican press drew the issue along the line of honesty and dishonesty and the result was that in many cases argument gave way to personal abuse. It was a trying time for those whose blood flows evenly and cool from habit. Four years ago there was a renewal of the same dispute, though the national bitterness had abated somewhat. In this year we find the issue eliminated, and all because of the enormous production of gold throughout the world.

Stand up, Cripple Creek, and be knighted.

Stand up, Alaska, and receive your decoration.

Stand up, South Africa, Western Australia and all of you others that have contributed to the abounding prosperity and wear the badge the politicians have created for you. It is you to whom they extend the honor of bringing peace between brother and brother, of removing the question of the standard of money "from the field of political contention."

Since the campaign of 1896 more than \$2,000,000,000 has been added to the world's supply of gold, and within the past fifteen years the world's supply has been increased more than \$3,000,000,000. At the present rate of production it will be said at the end of 1904 that the world has produced since 1890 one-third the total output of the world since the date of the discovery of America.

Without entering into the merits of the dispute between the extremes of policy on the question of the standard of money, it is sufficient to note that the politics of 1904 has directed the attention of voters to an important fact concerning the gold mining industry. There are those who do very little thinking except when a political campaign is at its height, and at such a time they do so only because their partisan duties compel them. If the present campaign does no more than advertise the fact that the gold mining industry is surpassing all previous records, to the great amazement of statisticians and the dismay of some politicians, its mission will not be vain so far as the mining industry is concerned.

Pass the word along.

The gold miner has made the politician take a few hitches in his suspender.—Daily Mining Record.

E. D. Hill, of Chicago, and a party of associates passed through Sumpter this morning en route to Canyon City and Burns. It is reported that they are on an important land transaction, though Mr. Hill, when seen by a Miner representative, stated there was nothing regarding the mission for publication at this time.

IRRIGATION BY ELECTRIC POWER

Irrigation by electric and gasoline power is steadily increasing in scope on the arid lands adjoining Baker City to the northeast. W. J. Patterson, a capitalist of this city, was the first to make these experiments and now the use of water for irrigation purposes from wells dug by power and the water distributed by the same power is becoming general, and these lands are being eagerly sought after.

The expense of digging these wells and pumping the water has been found to be much less than taking care of ditches and protecting water rights of questionable value. It has been demonstrated that a good body of water can be developed by digging a well and making an underground reservoir or drift at the bottom of the well, at a depth on the flat lands of thirty-five or forty feet and about sixty feet on the table lands.

Messrs. Collins and Warner, who have a tract of land about five miles north of the city, have a gasoline plant in operation and are pumping water successfully over their tract of land.

Mr. W. J. Patterson recently opened up two good wells on his flat northeast of the city and installed an electric power pumping plant, using centrifugal pumps that throw over 200 gallons of water per minute each, and while the power lasted they did the work to perfection, but Mr. Patterson was obliged to temporarily suspend work before the wells were completed, because the Light and Power company was not able to furnish necessary power with the present system. Within a very short time this difficulty will be obviated, as the company will put in substations, which will enable it to furnish and distribute the necessary power on all the land now lying idle northeast of Baker City. By putting in a well and pumping plant on every forty acres plenty of water will be furnished for diversified farming.

As soon as it is possible to get the necessary electric power, which is the most economical and requires the least attention, Mr. Patterson will complete his present work and will begin the construction of other wells as soon as possible. A number of people who have been skeptical about there being water available for irrigation purposes by digging wells are now anxious to get hold of a forty-acre tract near the city, and it is safe to say that within two years the valley will be populated by fruit and other small farmers, justifying a greater Baker City.—Democrat.