

GOLGONDA WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION JAN. 4

J. A. Howard returned home today after an absence of a couple of weeks. Wherever else he may have been during that time, he was in Pendleton early this week, attending the meeting of the stockholders of the Golconda Mining company. When asked as to the result of that conference, he declined to be interviewed; stating that he would prefer that the information be obtained from "headquarters;" as if the reporter was not then endeavoring to secure it from headquarters. He was firm, however, in his refusal to talk about the matter, so The Miner called into service its wireless telegraph operators and communicated with other authoritative sources.

An authentic report from Pendleton states that the stockholders met there November 8 and adjourned until the next day, when they

authorized the president of the company to offer all of its property for sale at public auction, in front of the court house in Pendleton January 4, 1905, at 2 o'clock p. m.

The proposition submitted by Alexander Prussing, of Chicago, was rejected, at the first meeting, held on the eighth instant, for the reason that the time required to carry out the plan would be too long.

It is understood that a committee of the stockholders will be prepared to bid in the property, and that the plan to sell is merely for the purpose of making title and to reorganize in the shortest time possible, as some of the larger creditors are said to have refused to grant an extension of time.

By the proposed plan it is hoped to have the mine in operation by February 1 to 15.

Important Court Ruling.

The supreme court of Utah handed down a decision last week that is of the utmost importance to the mining interests of that and other states. According to the decision the construction and operation of roads and tramways for the development of mines is a public use, and the statute which gives the right to condemn such property by right of eminent domain is declared to be constitutional. The opinion handed down says, among other things, that the construction and operation of irrigating ditches in Utah has been held to be a public use; therefore, "since the mining industry is second in importance only to that of irrigation" and "since it is of vital importance to the people that the coal as well as the other hidden resources of the state be opened up and developed and that the mining industry in general, which has been the source of so much wealth to the people of this and other western states, be conducted on the same extensive scale in the future that has characterized its operations in the past," it is "therefore the public policy of the state to encourage the people to open up and exploit the mines with which the state abounds, and thereby not only give to the state the wealth which will enable other industries to be created, but furnish thousands of laborers with remunerative employment."—Mining World.

Revival of Mining Camps.

The history of mining camps, like that of nations, repeats itself very often. The recent announcement that the once famous Tiptop silver district, near Castle creek, in southern Yavapai county, Arizona, is about to become a gold producer occasions no surprise. For twenty years the miners of Colorado mined up Clear creek to the top of the divide for silver, and there discovering gold, mined back for gold. Leadville, at first a gold placer camp, now a producer of gold, silver, lead and zinc. Butte City, Montana, was originally a silver camp. Eureka, Nevada, once a great silver-lead camp, is now producing gold,

and so the list might be continued at length, but the localities and instances mentioned are merely indicative of the changes which time and opportunities bring. The poor low-grade mine of today becomes the profitable producer of tomorrow, because of the changed conditions, increase in knowledge and improvement in methods.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Famous Blue Gravel Mine.

Some figures regarding the famous Blue Gravel mine at Smartsville were published in the Marysville Appeal on July 21, 1867: "This claim contains upward of 10 acres, averaging 100 feet from surface to bedrock. Upward of \$1,000,000 have been taken from it, though it was not opened until March, 1864. It occupied nine years of incessant labor, and the expenditure of upward of \$100,000 to open it. It has four miles of sluices, three feet wide and four feet deep, in which three tons of quicksilver are distributed to catch the gold. One hundred and twenty five thousand pounds of gunpowder are annually expended in blowing up and breaking the cement where it is too hard for the hydraulic to wash. The water used in washing costs \$25,000 per annum."

Lieu Land Filings on Mineral Lands.

Captain Alexander, special agent of The Interior department, passed through town on the afternoon train, from the John Day country to his headquarters at La Grande. He had been to the Black Butte to investigate some reported illegal lieu land filings in that district, and learned that the report was true in two ways. Some parties had made filings on mineral lands, and others were cutting timber from government lands for mining purposes.

C. R. Aldrin Goes Crazy.

C. R. Aldrin, a prominent mining man who has for several years been operating in the Greenhorn district, was taken to the county jail by Sheriff Brown at an early hour this morning and a charge of insanity was placed against him. Mr. Aldrin was at one time financially fixed, but

lost considerable money in speculating and one reverse following after another was more than his mind could stand, and he became mentally deranged. He will be examined some time today and a disposition made of his case by the county judge. The sympathy of the entire community is extended to his family in their misfortune.—Herald.

J. M. McPhee's New Job.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McPhee have gone to Portland to remain during the winter. On his recent trip east it was decided that no work should be done on the Golden Wizzard until spring, except to survey the property for patent, for which he has arranged. Among the stockholders in this company are the manufacturers of a proprietary article known as "Rocky Mountain Tea," which has a large sale throughout the east. They have appointed Mr. McPhee their Pacific coast agent. He will open an office in Portland and will put in the winter introducing the goods.

DRIFTING AT THE I. X. L. AT 300-FOOT LEVEL

Manager Fred T. Kelly of the I. X. L. mine, who has been spending a day or two in the city on business, states that he has now reached the 300 level with his main shaft and has commenced drifting on the ore vein. The shaft has been in ore all the way down from the 200 level, where they struck the splendid ore a few weeks ago.

What will develop with the drifting is hard to predict, but it is expected that within sixty feet the main ore shoot will be tapped, for which Mr. Kelly has been driving. Marvelous riches may be opened and all who are acquainted with the property believe that it will prove to be a wonder.

Mr. Kelly will start the mill on the 15th of the month, and begin the shipping of concentrates.

The hidden Treasure mine, adjoining the I. X. L. and belonging to the company, will be operated through the I. X. L. shaft and drifts, as it has been demonstrated that the two veins are coming together in one ore shoot, which can be tapped on the 300 level by a short cross cut, which will be undertaken as soon as the main I. X. L. ledge has been cut by the drift now being run.—Democrat.

In the Wilds of Alaska.

W. W. Elmer, the Sumpter mining engineer, who returned Monday from a trip to Alaska, tells some stirring tales of the hardships encountered in the far northern country. He left Sumpter about two months ago, having been retained by a big mining syndicate with headquarters in the east to examine and report upon a property located several hundred miles inland from Resurrection Bay. The trip was a most difficult one and the weather was nothing if not wretched. Mr. Elmer believes that Alaska is a great mining country, but eastern Oregon holds out far superior inducements at this time.

Dr. J. Jackson and Arthur Booth, of Spokane, were passengers yesterday to Baker City, en route home from the Humboldt mine, in the Greenhorns, where they made surveys.

General Manager Fuller, and Superintendent Kirchen, of the smelter, and Mrs. Kirchen were passengers on the Baker bound train this afternoon.

WHY THE JAPS WANT MUDKEN

A correspondent writing from Mukden gives the true version of the reason why the Japs want to gain possession of that territory. He says:

"To judge by the foreign papers we are getting here, public opinion abroad knows nothing of the real importance of Mukden to the Japs and its value to various Russian general, and high officials as a business proposition. As a matter of fact the possession of Mukden will go far toward replenishing the gold reserve in the Mikado's coffers.

"For here, in the suburb of Neekuan, without the great wall and the jurisdiction of the Chinese Viceroy, are the vast works where Alexieff and other Muscovites have the gold ore, taken out of Korean soil, ground up, refined and made into 'yellow boys' for use in Paris and Monte Carlo.

"The Japs were too hot after Alexieff and his successors to remove even part of the treasure, though for a time they loaded military trains returning to the Western frontier with the precious dirt and quartz. Yet again the Jap's surprising alacrity spoiled their calculations. Their lightning movements made it imperative to rush troops to Manchuria at an unheard of pace—there was no time for private enterprises, even those of the viceroy and other 'greatest' men."

DEAL ON FOR SALE OF THE EARLE GROUP

A deal is pending for the sale of the Earle group of mines, adjoining the Morning, in the Greenhorns, to a Wisconsin syndicate. A bond for a deed has been signed by John and Morris Sullivan, owners of the property, and a first payment is due on December 15. Morris Sullivan came in from the mine yesterday to vote for Parker. He confirmed the news of the pending deal. "We have bonded the Earle group," he said, "and believe that the sale will be consummated."

The Earle consists of six claims on a cross vein about 1,800 feet from the end line of the Morning. A 4-foot tunnel has entered a good ore body. Where the Morning ledge intersects the Earle a big pay shoot is confidently expected. A force of men is now driving toward this point.

The recent sale of a controlling interest in the stock of the Lucy, another contiguous property, to a wealthy Milwaukee company was chronicled in this paper.

Sinking Plant for the Monumental.

C. J. Allen, of the Monumental, passed through Sumpter today on his way to Portland. He says he has installed the pump and hoist that arrived here two weeks since. A station was cut in the lower tunnel, 1,050 feet from its mouth and at a vertical depth of 500 feet, and the machine placed at that point. It is of small capacity, but sufficient to sink a mine 200 feet, which will be rushed to early completion. That will give a total depth of 700 feet, which will demonstrate what the owners are endeavoring to ascertain.