

COLUMBIA MINE WILL USE COMPRESSED AIR POWER

Some days since, The Miner mentioned the fact that a large air compressor had arrived for the Columbia, and that there was considerable speculation as to what it is intended for, the mine being already equipped with air drills. While in town today, Manager Frank Baillie explained that it will be used for power, in all departments.

Aside from use on drills, this is the first compressed air plant to be installed in eastern Oregon. At the Columbia this power will be transmitted a distance of one mile. The water power recently developed will be employed to compress the air, which method is adopted, says Mr. Baillie, instead of using electricity for the power to be transmitted, because the latter loses 12 per cent, while the loss of power in the transmission of air is practically nothing.

Another advantage of air over electricity is that it can be used in conjunction with steam, while the latter cannot be. The steam is merely turned into the pipe with

the air, and the full power of each is combined.

The air plant already at the Columbia is of 100 horse power, and another compressor of the same capacity will arrive in sixty days. The plant now there will be in operation in one month. The power employed at the Columbia to operate its hoist, pumps, drills, quartz and saw mills, amounts to 500-horse; which in steam costs per year \$100, or a total of \$50,000 annually. The water-air power costs practically nothing after installing, except for repairs, so this 200-horse power air plant will effect an economy of \$20,000 a year. The company is utilizing all the power it owns, and would, of course, eliminate steam entirely, if it could secure sufficient water.

The pipe line used for the transmission of the air is tested for a pressure of 750 pounds to the square inch; though the 200-horse air power plant to be installed will offer a pressure of only 200 pounds to the inch.

KINKS IN THE GOLCONDA TO BE STRAIGHTENED OUT

Again the authoritative announcement is made that the Golconda mine tangle will be unraveled without difficulty, and that all factional differences will be adjusted without leaving even so much as a trace of hard feelings.

James A. Howard, president of the First National bank of Sumpter, and general manager of the Golconda mine, and Harry T. Hendryx, junior member of the Geiser-Hendryx investment company, and attorney-in-fact for Alexander Prussing, of Chicago, trustee for the minority Golconda stockholders, returned this morning from attendance upon the annual meeting of Golconda stockholders at Pendleton on January 10. The meeting was called to order by President J. H. Raley and adjournment until January 25 was immediately taken. Practically all of the outstanding stock was represented. After adjournment of the stockholders' meeting, the board of directors went into session to hear a proposition from Trustee Prussing, submitted by his representative, Mr. Hendryx. This proposition was for the taking over by Mr. Prussing of \$75,000 worth of first mortgage Golconda bonds. The board listened to all the details of this plan,

and decided at length to ask the stockholders' meeting on January 25 to endorse the proposition.

The filing of the suit to foreclose Howard's and Carter's mortgages against the mine, amounting to \$36,000, which suit was instituted prior to the stockholders' meeting, was simply for the purpose of clearing title to the property, so that the directors may be in shape to issue first mortgage bonds in the event the Prussing plan is endorsed by the majority of the stockholders.

Mr. Hendryx said today to a Miner reporter: "The indications are that the Golconda matter will be straightened out shortly and the interests of all the stockholders amply protected. I am not at liberty to give my reasons for this belief, but suffice it to say that all parties concerned have displayed a disposition to be fair and are willing to meet on a common ground. The fore closure suit to the Golconda is simply to clear title to the mine, and in no way affects the points at issue."

Mr. Howard said: "Negotiations for an amicable settlement of Golconda affairs are progressing as rapidly as possible. I believe a definite understanding will be reached at the adjourned meeting of stockholders on January 25."

DEFENDS THE POLICY OF STATE AID TO MINING

The Australian Mining Standard, in a recent issue, ably defends the policy of state aid to the mining industry, and endorses the programme

of the Westralian mines department for the erection of government smelters. It also approves the policy of the state of Victoria in the matter of maintaining a government metallurgical laboratory. It says:

"Public money judiciously spent in boring, track-cutting, and other similar work of practical utility is

money well spent, not in the interest of the particular industry immediately stimulated, but in that of the whole community benefited by the prosperous activity of that industry, and the welfare of a mining state will always depend upon the extent to which it is officially recognised."

This program will strike the American as being somewhat paternal and very different from that which has been applied in this country in the matter of government aid to mining. The United States geological survey has been confined in its operation largely to broader scientific lines, and to doing things that individuals cannot well be expected to do. No attempt has been made to supply the industry with commercial facilities. The Standard evidently does not understand the relation of the American government to the mining industry of this country, for in the same article, above quote from, it says:

"In the United States, where the sound public policy of state aid to mining development is thoroughly recognized and acted upon, it is designed to obviate this by taking the laboratory nearer to the prospector. To this end, a bill has been brought before the senate by Senator Gamble, of South Dakota, for the establishment of mining experiment stations in all of the mining districts throughout the Union, where prospectors, miners or any other American citizen can have mineral sampled or assayed at nominal cost. Each experimental station is to be officered by a geologist and a chemist competent to discharge all the duties connected with the purpose of the station, and when they are not so engaged the geologist is to examine and report on the surrounding country for the information of this department. No officer so employed is permitted to make profit of information obtained in the discharge of his duty, and the main purpose kept in view is the advantage to the state through the development of its mineral resources. The bill passed its second reading some time ago, and has been referred to the committee on mines and mining. The splendid work of the United States geological survey bears still more forcible testimony to the judicious manner in which government aids have been extended, and the wonderful expansion of the industry which has taken place in the western states presents the due effect following upon its inducing cause."

While the Gamble bill has some adherents, it is a distinct innovation as far as government activity is concerned in this country, and it is questionable whether it will ever become a law.—Mining World.

STANDARD COMPANY ACQUIRES CLEAR TITLE

The Standard mine has purchased from Joseph Keese et al, of Prairie City, the outstanding half-interest in the Willie Boy, Last Chance, Hobo Reiley, and I. X. L. quartz claims at Quartzburg, clear title to which is now vested in the Standard Consolidated Mines company. The legal transfer was made last week through the filing of a deed with the recorder of Grant county. The consideration named in the document was \$6,000.

Shipments from the Basche store this morning included miscellaneous mining equipment for the E. & E., North Pole and Columbia mines on Cracker creek.



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