

## WILL SEARCH FOR LOST ELDORADO

Mine promoters have taken a new tack by incorporating the Belding Prospecting syndicate, with a capital of \$10,000, to find a lost placer mine in the Arizona desert, where \$250,000 net is supposed to be buried, not to mention another pot of \$100,000 which was taken out by some of the miners who were ambushed by Apaches.

William P. Belding, an old mining man, with his sons, E. E. and R. A. Belding, aged 21 and 19, are to spend two years in the Arizona badlands in a hunt for the lost treasure and in prospecting around the United Verde district. They are to leave in a few weeks for Flagstaff, Arizona, which is to be their base.

William Belding, in telling of the romance of the lost El Dorado, said to a Spokesman-Review reporter:

"In 1860, when the Apache was running things with a high hand in the Arizona desert, sixteen adventurous Americans were gathered on the Mexican border, under the leadership of George Wood, an old time California placer miner. A greaser had told Wood of a placer mine out in the Arizona desert. He led them to the head of a gulch, where every pan of dirt showed nuggets. Within two months ten of the men left camp for Fort Yuma to bring in supplies, and they packed out with them not less than 1000 pounds, avoirdupois, of gold, valued at not less than \$225,000. This was all taken out with pans and rockers. Two days out of camp the party of ten were overtaken by Apaches on the war path. Every man was killed. A troop of United States cavalry, a few days later, found their bodies where they had fallen. Horses, packs and gold had disappeared. The remaining six in camp waited six weeks, daily expecting the pack train. They were running short of supplies, but were rocking out heavy gold daily, which was stored in a hole dug in the corner of the tent.

"Supplies had run so low that some move was necessary. Wood, accompanied by a man named Keller, left camp in the early morning. The horses were all away with the party of ten. Wood and Keller expected to walk to Fort Yuma. They carried packs with supplies and a few pounds of gold in each.

"Before Wood and Keller were out of sight of camp they heard the war whoop of the Apaches, and looked back to see the camp outfit going up in smoke. Knowing full well that their safety lay in flight, they left the trail and struck out across the desert sands.

"If you have never tramped the Arizona desert with water lacking, you will fail to appreciate the suffering these men endured. Their heavy packs grew irksome and their trail across the desert was marked by gold nuggets which they threw away to make the burden light, until they had only such nuggets left as they could carry in their pockets.

"It was more than two weeks later when Lieutenant Bliss, leading a detachment of cavalry, came across the men and brought them into Fort Yuma. The war department records tell of this rescue. They said they had left over \$100,000 in gold buried under the bed in the corner of the tent.

"The men were wrecked in health.

Keller died soon after. Wood recovered and spent many years in southern California. In the winter of 1885-6 Wood returned to Arizona with a man named Cutler. They took the government trail, expecting confidently to find the old placer, but after traveling the distance necessary to bring them to it, they found themselves in a section wholly unlike the place where the mine was found. The placer, as Wood well remembered, was surrounded by hills of a peculiar shape, land marks so bold that they could be readily distinguished at a considerable distance. Wood had the country well mapped and the land marks well placed. But he failed to find anything that looked like the place he remembered so well. He returned much disappointed and died soon after. He left his maps and descriptions with his friend Cutler, who was my friend also.

"In the winter of 1889-90 Cutler and I took up the search. The directions were quite plain for a great part of the distance; one was simply to follow the government trail a certain part of the way. This we did, but our search was unavailing, as was that of Wood and Cutler in '85. We stuck to it all winter and returned, disappointed.

"But there was reason for our failure to find the old landmarks. I have said that one must follow the government trail. It was not until a year after my trip in there that I found out, quite by accident, that the government trail was changed and shortened in 1866, and that the newer trail that we had followed and that Wood and Cutler had also gone over, threw us probably 100 miles off the track of the placers.

"I have had no difficulty since in determining the course of the old trail, it being a matter of public record, and, while the old trail is largely obliterated since it passed out of use almost forty years ago, there are still the river crossings and the water courses and the prominent land marks by which I can pick it up again. Therefore, I have great hope of finding, this time, the gulch that produced that gold. Indeed, I feel assurance amounting almost to a conviction, that I shall go almost directly to it."

The officers of the syndicate are: President, E. E. Plough; vice president, E. C. Gove; secretary, C. E. Mitchell; treasurer, Mrs. Jessie L. Quinn; mining manager, William P. Belden.

### Crooked Company in Idaho.

A special from Washington of the 24th says: H. B. Fulton, of Boise, is in Washington in behalf of the Century Mining & Milling company, which has been cited to show cause why a fraud order should not be issued against it by the postoffice department. The company operates mines in Thunder Mountain district and it is calmed by the department to be distributing through the mails and otherwise much misleading advertising matter. Mr. Fulton was given a hearing before the department this morning and made a good impression. Judge Goodwin said to day that no fraud order would be issued if the company would eliminate certain features of its advertising literature. This the company has agreed to do.—Weiser Signal.

The Jupiter Gold mining company, owning the Prairie Diggings mine, has awarded a contract for 800 cords of wood for early delivery to Dick Amber, of John Day.

## MINING IN 1904 THE WORLD OVER

The Mining World, of Chicago, issued on the 21st instant its annual number, which is, as usual, the best review of the mining industry published. It's leading editorial, which is a general summary, after treating of iron and coal, says:

"The gold production of the world continues to increase, and it is likely that it will do so, as new districts are opened up and the older ones worked more extensively and by newer methods. The resumption in full of the Rand mines in South Africa in 1904 added largely to the world's gold supply, and the gold production of Mexico is yearly increasing. In the United States, the Nevada bonanza districts have been added to the lists of gold districts, and Cripple Creek has attained a high water record in gold production. The Alaska product has, as was to be expected, diminished, but the supply from this source will continue to be large nevertheless. Peru is coming forward as a gold producer, and several districts in South America are attracting attention of capital.

The silver mining industry in 1904 responded somewhat directly to the market conditions, which improved somewhat during the latter part of the year. There was no important silver discovery during the year, and no special movement in processes was made. The prospect of the curtailment of silver coinage by the Mexican government is an important pending problem in the silver industry that was discounted somewhat in 1904, but which probably must be met in 1905.

Copper has attracted attention during the past year by the steady advance in prices and the rapid strides made by the Arizona properties, chiefly at Bisbee. Arizona is rapidly coming to first place in the production of copper, and that through its own great increase rather than the decrease in Montana or Michigan. The Michigan district has continued to show promising developments in the new mines, and the old properties do not show any signs of being worked out. Mexico produced considerable copper during last year, and the outlook for an increased output is good.

An important development in the lead and zinc industry during last year was the installation of electric power in the Joplin district. The Wisconsin district, once a lead and zinc producer, has recently been revived as a zinc field, with promise of strong production. The Kootenay zinc ores, long unavailable, will, during 1905, find a market in a new smelter at Crow's Nest Pass.

The tin mining industry in the United States has not made any real development during 1904. The deposits in the Carolinas were examined by a strong company, but what will be done is not announced. The Black Hills (South Dakota) deposits are only operated in a partial way. Bolivia is looked upon as a new important source of tin, and American interests have been investigating this field also.

The minor metals have attained a considerable commercial importance during the year past, and the outlook for a larger demand and a more stable price for these so-called rare metals than it has been at any time heretofore.

The production of nickel continues to be controlled by Ontario and New Caledonia, and the last year did not produce any new deposits of determined importance or extend the areas of the deposits known. An American cobalt mine in Oregon has been developed during 1904 and an important discovery of an ore of cobalt was made in Ontario during the year.

There were during last year reports of important bodies of copper and other ores in central Africa, which will in time affect the world's supply and the awakened industrial activity in South America is generally noticeable. Canada during the last year made important general developments in her varied mineral resources and the importance of the Japanese exploitations was emphasized by the exhibits at the St. Louis exposition and the reports from the orient of the New Japan.

There has been a vast amount of investigation of mining and metallurgical problems during the past year on the part of the United States and state governments, and of individuals. These investigations are accumulative and each year increases the results of the next. In private industry the important furnace improvement made through the researches of President Gayley, of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, for his company, the United States Steel corporation, promises very large results when generally applied to iron smelting. The investigations of the Canadian commission into the possibilities of electrical smelting of iron ore are noteworthy monuments in the achievements of 1904.

A press dispatch from Pendleton says that C. B. Wade, the defaulting cashier of the First National bank of that place, was arrested late Tuesday evening for forgery and larceny by bailee, both charges being preferred by District Attorney G. W. Phelps. He waived preliminary examination and was held to answer to the circuit court. The bond on the first charge was fixed at \$500 and on the second at \$5,000. Late Tuesday night he was unable to furnish bail and is now in the custody of the sheriff. Wade is charged with forging the name of Joseph Vey on a note of \$10,000. Vey is an illiterate but wealthy sheep man, and all his business transactions were conducted by Wade while cashier of the bank. When Wade was deposed, it was discovered that Vey's note was not genuine.

The charge of larceny by bailee was brought for misappropriating funds amounting to \$14,000, belonging to the Craig estate, of which Wade was administrator. His bondsmen, E. J. Somerville and H. F. Johnson, made good the loss and are the prosecuting witnesses.

Wade's return to the city was for the purpose of swearing to affidavits made while he was administrator of the Despain estate. Phelps learned of his coming and arrived last night from Heppner in time to file an information before Wade left the city.

### No Golconda Meeting at Pendleton.

Harry Hendryx returned from Baker City this forenoon. He did not go to Pendleton to attend that called meeting of the Golconda stockholders, but sent his attorney, N. C. Richards, instead. Richards carried with him proxies for 500,000 shares of Golconda stock held by J. A. Howard, which were not needed, as no meeting was held. Why, Mr. Hendryx does not say. Mr. Howard says there is nothing to say.