

operation, all of them yielding a satisfactory amount of gold. A fifty-stamp mill, with mines sufficiently developed to supply it, is in process of construction by the "Idaho," another Louisville company, and will soon be in operation, the result of an expenditure of \$200,000. The "Golden King," another Louisville company, has its mines open and a mill erected, and will soon be furnished with machinery for crushing ore. A group of claims adjoining the "Idaho" company's mines has been secured for a Cleveland company, and interests in other promising gold claims have been taken by Louisville capitalists who, as soon as the "Idaho" and "Golden King" pay their first dividend, will be ready with the money to organize companies for their development. These capitalists have already got control of the "Goldsmith," a large gold mine on the South Fork, near Evolution, and have decided to put up a large mill upon it.

While in the vicinity of Murray and Delta the mines are chiefly gold, placer and free-milling quartz, there are a number of prospects rich in silver and lead. On the old Belknap trail one of the richest silver mines in the region is now being opened. At Carbon Center, about five miles up Beaver creek from Delta, an Ohio company is opening large and rich galena mines, and at the foot of Bald mountain some rich silver mines have attracted the attention of Louisville men who are hastening to secure them. The gold quartz is mostly free-milling, and some of it very rich. With the opening of the hill placers other hidden veins will doubtless be uncovered, so that from the start this district is now receiving there are abundant reasons to believe that it will continue to increase in business for many years, and become one of the largest and most productive gold districts in the country.

The silver region, or rather the silver-bearing galena district, is in the valley of the South Fork, a stream which runs in a generally western course—parallel with Pritchard creek and about twenty miles south of it—from the Bitter Root mountains into the Cœur d'Alene river. It is a larger and much longer stream than Pritchard creek, being not less than thirty miles long, while Pritchard is about fifteen. It unites with the main river about six miles above The Mission. In the hills on either side of the South Fork, all the way from The Mission to the foot of the mountain at Nigger Prairie, or Mullan City, as the new town at that place is now called, a district about forty miles long by fifteen wide, a great number of veins of galena and some carbonates and chlorides have been discovered within the past year, besides a few veins of gold. There are also some placer claims in the district. Properly speaking it is a great galena belt, the largest and undoubtedly the richest that has been discovered on the Pacific coast. The bulk of its wealth, so far as is now apparent, is its concentrating ore, although it is already known that much of its ore is almost pure galena carrying silver. Two of the mines in this belt, the Banker Hill and Sullivan, have been shipping ore to the reduction works at Wickes since last winter, and for the past two months have been keep-

ing a fifty-ton concentrator running at Wardner on their low grade ores. These two mines alone have already built up the town of Wardner in Milo gulch, two miles south of the South Fork, attracted the local railroad above referred to, and induced the erection of a Hartsfield smelter at Milo, two miles below them. But on Canyon creek and on Nine Mile mines are already open which are equal to them in extent and richness of ore, while on Deadwood and Government gulches, on Big creek and Moon creek and around Mullan City sufficient work has been done to show that the Wardner mines are only a sample of the bodies of ore in this district. All that it now requires for its rapid and prosperous development are concentrating works and railway transportation. The building of the little road from The Mission to Wardner, which will give the country steam transportation during the navigation season to the Cœur d'Alene post, twelve miles from Rathdrum, will greatly stimulate work upon these various claims from this time forward, and make an all-rail route, which will be available throughout the year, a necessity to the country, as it will be a source of wealth to its owners. Mines enough have already been discovered and proved to make this region a field of prosperous industry for many years, but, as in all mining camps, a large number of prospectors, with the western hunger for the horizon, are extending their prospecting trips, and the limits of both the districts described will undoubtedly be widened. It is believed that the galena belt on the South Fork extends across the divide to the St. Joe, and prospectors are already following the leads in that direction. The search for gold in this country is rapidly increasing, and at the present time nothing is more attractive to eastern capital than a gold mine. In the Cœur d'Alene region there is still room for prospectors to use their picks and pans, while with the building of reduction works and the opening of transportation, they will have an opportunity to make their discoveries quickly available.

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THE NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

The stone composing the four towers of the Niagara railroad suspension bridge, having been found to be slowly disintegrating, it has been decided to replace them by iron supports. Although a difficult, and possibly dangerous, undertaking, the work is being carried on without much interference with the use of the bridge. Every precaution has been taken to prevent accident. The workmen are now engaged in removing stone from the sides of the towers, in order to make room for the preliminary ironwork. The upper caps are being drilled so that when the time comes, the hydraulic jacks may be readily slipped into place and the great cables transferred from the stone supports to the strong iron towers which are to replace them. These are being manufactured in Detroit, and will shortly be shipped to Niagara. Their cost will be \$40,000.00.