

out a few of its only herd as a present to some European museum, the foreign orders never will be filled.—*St. Paul Globe.*

MONTANA MINES AND RAILROADS.—The first shipment of Sand Coulee coal for Benton, Montana, was made February 13. Track laying on the Montana Central is being pushed to early completion, when it is expected that road will handle seventeen hundred tons of coal daily, from the Sand Coulee mines, and it is estimated that the demand on the Manitoba road will be about one thousand tons daily. The Manitoba company recently closed a contract for fifty-five thousand tons of rails. These will enable it to build about five hundred miles of extensions and branches in Montana, and \$5,000,000.00 will be expended this season in building and equipping more lines and pushing on to the Idaho boundary. The bridge at Great Falls, one thousand feet in length, and having seven piers, has just been completed. \$2,000,000.00 of Montana Central bonds were put upon the New York market, and brought a premium of ten to fifteen per cent., though the road is yet really less than one hundred miles long. The Montana Central connects the Manitoba railroad system with Butte, a camp whose total freight shipments last year amounted to five hundred and forty-one thousand tons; which shipped seventy thousand tons of copper matte alone, and whose consumption of coke, coal, lumber and machinery is greater than that of all the rest of Montana combined. Such is the town which the Montana Central is about to tap, and it is for this reason that when \$2,000,000.00 worth of bonds were thrown on the market they were eagerly taken at a heavy premium.

ALASKA GOLD MINES.—The *Alaska Free Press*, in speaking of some of the resources of Alaska, mentions Douglas island, which is but twenty-five miles long and ten miles wide, and says: Running lengthwise of the island, and located for thirty-one thousand five hundred feet, lies a gold-bearing vein that has an actual average width of five hundred feet, with an average of eight hundred feet in depth above drainage, or sea level; ten cubic feet of ore weighs a ton; the ore will mill \$6.00 per ton. This is the approximate value of ore in sight on what is known as the Treadwell vein. The actual amount of gold realized per month is kept a secret, though it is said to be \$100,000.00, of which \$40,000.00 is clear profit. There are six owners, who, though it only cost them \$500,000.00 to put up their plant to work the mine, have since refused \$20,000,000.00 for their claims, which they assert are inexhaustible. The great value of the mines on Douglas island is not altogether on account of their richness, but also because of the regularity of the veins of gold, and their accessibility. Back of Juneau, in the canyon that separates the two mountains that loom up in the rear of the town, in what is called the Silver Bow basin, are a number of claims, which, the owners say, pay well for working them. Within a radius of ten miles there are a number of other gold mines. The settlers claim that the whole country without the outskirts of Juneau, as well as all of Douglas island opposite, are one mass of gold quartz rock.

THE SALMON RIVER MINES.—Of all the mining districts in Washington Territory, there is none which is attracting more attention at present than the Salmon river district, located on Salmon creek, just north of the Big Bend of the Columbia, in the eastern part of the territory. That this was a rich district was known years ago by the Indians and prospectors who occasionally visited the creek. The inaccessibility of the locality deterred its development until about eighteen months ago, when a Tacoma prospector staked out three claims and com-

menced work in earnest, to ascertain whether there were, in truth, any valuable ledges there. His persistent and well-directed efforts were rewarded with success, and he was soon followed by scores of others who were anxious to share in the fortunes to be found in this new, and now promising, district. The ores are chiefly rich in silver, but some give highly satisfactory returns in gold. A Tacoma company is now putting in reduction works at Salmon City. All who have visited the district speak in highest terms of the prospects, and it is the belief of those capable of judging, that Salmon City will be the Leadville of Washington Territory. The trade of this territory is tributary to Tacoma, by the Big Bend and Salmon River Transportation Co's. line of steamers, on the Upper Columbia, and connections to Ellensburg or Yakima, and thence by the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific railroad.

AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CITY.—Looking forward to the dense settlement of the now sparsely populated wheat regions of Eastern Washington, to the development of the rich mineral belts of the Okanogan and other valleys, to the thorough clearing and cultivation of the surpassingly rich agricultural valleys, that extend from the sound to the foothills of the Cascade mountains, to the constant increase of the output of the coal mines, to the further growth of the great lumber industry, to the establishment of numerous manufacturing concerns, and to the advent of jobbing houses, to the building up of an extensive foreign commerce on Puget sound, the greatest and best of the natural harbors of the world—looking forward to all these as sure to come, one can not but feel, while looking down on Tacoma from the forest-crowned heights at the head of Commencement bay, that he has before him the beginning of what is destined to be one of the world's most important commercial cities. The foundations for such a city have been laid with intelligence and liberality, and all conditions are now favorable for rapid and substantial growth. Great progress has been made during the past few years, but still greater progress is sure to be made during the coming decade.—*Eugene V. Smalley, in Northwest Magazine.*

MONTANA.—The greatest length from west to east of Montana is five hundred and forty miles; the width, two hundred and seventy-five miles, and the superficial area, one hundred and forty-five thousand seven hundred and seventy-six square miles, of which fully one-third is mountainous. The great watershed between the Atlantic and the Pacific, the main divide of the Rocky mountains, runs through the western end, leaving about one-fourth of the territory on its western slope, and three fourths on the eastern. The western portion of the territory is exceedingly mountainous, while the eastern portion contains its grazing grounds and most of its agricultural valleys. The mean altitude is three thousand feet above sea level. Mining has always been, and probably will continue to be, the leading industry. Montana's mineral progress has been marked by gigantic strides. In 1882 her precious metal output was eight million dollars; in 1887 it was over twenty-five millions, a gain of seventeen millions in five years. What her probabilities are in this direction no one will dare to predict. The chief city of the territory is Helena, the capital, with a population, according to the directory just issued, of nearly sixteen thousand. Its chief mining camp, Butte, is the largest and busiest in the world. The territory has a population of over two hundred thousand.

A RICH GOLD DISCOVERY.—We are informed, on good authority, that a very rich quartz discovery has been made by