

MONTANA NOTES.

Butte City, which is now the greatest mining camp in the world, was originally given prominence by its placers. But the placers of the camp have not been worked for some twelve years. The site upon which the city is built is rich in gold but the rocks have appeared so much more inviting that the washings were abandoned. Lately, however, an enterprise was started for working the placers of the camp and a company has been organized. 3500 acres of placer ground between Butte and Silver Bow have been obtained, and rights covering about 1500 inches of water have been secured at a cost of \$5,000. The water will be conducted in a ditch and when at its destination will have a head of about 300 feet, and in volume will be enough to operate at least half a dozen giants. The contract for digging the ditch has been let and it is expected that full running operations will be commenced by next May.

Careful estimates of the mineral product of Montana for this year place the total output at \$45,000,000, \$28,000,000 of which is gold and silver and the remainder copper and lead. The silver product of Butte alone for the year will reach \$6,000,000. Last year Montana yielded minerals worth \$38,000,000 of which \$24,000,000 were precious. That record gave her the lead as a mineral producer. This year she goes still farther ahead. Mining there is a profitable business too, as is indicated by the fact that \$2,647,750 were paid in dividends by seven of the leading mines of the territory this year to Oct. 1.

A saw mill is being erected on the Yellowstone river in Montana to turn out needed material for road building in the national park. About twenty-five miles of new wagon road have been constructed in the park this season at a cost of about \$60,000, \$11,000 of which were expended in building two miles in Grand Canyon. Of the appropriation for the year ending next June, \$15,000 remains unexpended. This will be required to put the roads in good condition next spring.

The English syndicate owning and operating the Empire and Phil Shennan mines in Montana and the Carlisle mine in New Mexico has consolidated its interests and will hereafter push the work in all of them under one management. The Phil Shennan group of mines in Beaverhead county, Montana, is to have a forty-stamp mill. The twenty-stamp mill at Empire is to be started. Development operations will be prosecuted vigorously all along the line of this company's properties.

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