

SAN FRANCISCO'S COAL SUPPLY.

One of the principal articles which we consume and do not produce in this state, says the *San Francisco Call*, is coal. California's annual consumption of coal averages a trifle over 1,300,000 tons. If we assume that this costs an average of \$7.50 a ton, we may set down our yearly expenditure for coal at nearly ten million dollars—say one-third as much as we get for our wheat export, and three times as much as we get for our total export of wine and brandy. If we assume the population of the state to be 1,250,000, it costs us \$8.00 per head to procure coal for steam, heating and lighting purposes.

Of this coal nearly two-thirds comes from Great Britain and her colonies. The proportion received from England, Scotland and Australia varies with the price of freights and the price of breadstuffs here. When there is an excess of disengaged shipping in Great Britain ships load up with coal for San Francisco, and take back cargoes of wheat; when the supply of tonnage in Australia is in excess of the demand the same operation is repeated there. But nearly a quarter of the foreign coal which comes here comes from Vancouver Island, and the supply is not subject to fluctuations. It increases steadily as new mines are opened and old ones developed. Two years ago our receipts of Vancouver coal were only 260,000 tons; last year they were 317,904 tons. The railroad has bought jointly with the Dunsmuirs, a mine on the island, and expects to draw its whole coal supply from that source.

The future of the coal trade will depend on the course of discovery in Oregon and Washington. There is some newspaper talk of discoveries of cannel coal in Alaska, and it may turn out to have a foundation in fact. But our hopes of emancipation from Great Britain for our coal supply must mainly rest on the prospect that good steam coal or household coal will some day be found in the states north of us. There is every reason to believe that such will be the case. It is hardly to be believed that on one side of the Straits of Fuca, carbonization went on for thousands of years before it began on the other side. If it did not, prospectors will some day discover that in the vicinity of the light tertiary coals of Oregon and Washington, there are seams of the lignite, or even possibly bituminous coal. It is a comfort to householders to perceive that their coal bills are very much less than they were at this season last year, with the prospect of becoming less. Scotch coal is selling at wholesale at \$8.50 and the retailers are delivering Washington at \$10.50. A discovery of hard lignite in Washington would very quickly knock the price down to \$6.00 or less.

NEVADA MINING INTELLIGENCE.

It is reported that the Holmes and Northern Belle mines at Candelaria have been sold and that they will be systematically developed. Over 100 hands are employed at the borax works at Columbus, and some 1,500 tons of borax are shipped monthly. The mill at Sodaville is kept running continually on good ore from the Columbus consolidated mine. A good deal of chloriding is being done on the Potosi and other claims at Candelaria. There are fourteen men at work on the Garfield, and it is expected a large force will soon be engaged. Two locations at Fish lake were recently sold by the proprietor for \$15,000. The ore is silver and lead and is said to be very rich. The purchaser is an old mining man and evidently knows what he is about.

The *Eureka Sentinel* learns that Mr. Clark has made another rich strike in Reveille district, Nye county. The new find is supposed to be a continuation of the old Gila ledge, which proved so rich in early days. There were at least three good fortunes made out of the Gila. Mr. Clark, Harry Barnes and

John B. Magee realized each about \$250,000 from the working of the high grade ores. Ex-Governor Adams is now the owner of the Gila mine and mill.

Good reports still come from the Joanna mine, in Robinson district. Bad weather has hindered the development of the district, but everything sustains the belief that the district will prove a very rich one. At present the district offers a good opportunity for the investment of capital in mills and the opening of mines that are known to be rich. A company has been incorporated with \$120,000 capital to work the placer deposits in Robinson canyon. A sixty days' bond for \$20,000 has been filed upon the Joanna, No. 2, mine, which is an extension of the original Joanna which brought the district into prominence at first.

MINERAL PRODUCT OF 1889.

The product of gold, silver, copper and lead for 1889, in the western states and territories, is thus estimated by J. J. Valentine, vice-president of Wells, Fargo & Co. Express Co., in his annual report:

California	\$12,842,737
Nevada	11,908,961
Oregon	785,361
Washington	217,000
Alaska	643,000
Idaho	17,344,800
Montana	21,736,925
Utah	9,880,013
Colorado	28,074,888
New Mexico	3,907,877
Arizona	5,803,037
Dakota	3,407,177
West coast of Mexico by steamer	512,288
British Columbia	442,164
Total	\$127,877,888

Of the amount credited to California \$10,329,040 is gold dust and bullion, the remainder being silver bullion, ores and base bullion. Of the amount credited to Nevada only \$3,082,653 is gold, the remainder being silver and base bullion. The gross yield of the various metals produced in 1889, when segregated, is approximately as follows:

Gold, 25 83-100	\$82,914,543
Silver, 51 15-100	65,213,307
Copper, 11 58-100	14,798,768
Lead, 11 43-100	14,596,828
Total	\$177,523,446

The exports of silver during the past year to Japan, China, the Straits, etc., have been as follows: From London, \$39,232,314; from San Francisco, \$18,422,398. Total, \$57,754,712, as against \$43,006,618 last year. Pounds sterling estimated at \$4.84. The estimated product of gold and silver in Mexico in 1889 is \$41,746,000, of which only \$1,040,000 was silver.

These figures will scarcely go unquestioned. Montana is estimated by people as well qualified as Mr. Valentine to have produced nearly \$50,000,000, and Butte alone lays claim to \$24,000,000. Colorado is credited by him with \$31,726,925, while the *Denver Republican* claims a product of silver alone of \$32,000,000, and a total of \$90,000,000, which, however, is just a trifle high.

The discovery of good quartz veins near Yuma, Arizona, is reported. The group includes two claims. The first, located on the twenty-first of December by Peter and Frank Burk, is named the Hard Lock, extending laterally northeast and southwest. Toward the northeast end a shaft is sunk to a depth of thirty-five feet on a quartz vein eighteen inches wide, and carrying, it is said, between \$9.00 and \$16.00 per ton in gold. The