

American Gem Output

Diamonds, Emeralds, and Other Precious Stones Mined in 1911 to Value of \$343,692.

American mines in 1911 yielded \$2,700 worth of diamonds, \$9,500 worth of emeralds, \$215,313 worth of sapphires, and \$44,751 worth of turquoise according to figures just compiled by the United States Geological Survey. The total output of precious stones in the United States last year was valued at \$343,692; the production in 1910 was valued at \$295,380.

An important feature of the gem-mining industry in the United States during 1911 was the result of prospecting at the Turner emerald mine near Shelby, N. C. The quality of some of the gems and the value of the gem material found in this deposit with a small amount of development work are promising, for the output included gems valued at \$100 to \$200 per carat and equal in quality to the average run of the emeralds from South America. During the last three years this one locality in North Carolina has yielded gems worth \$10,500.

Much interest has lately been aroused in the moss agates found in Montana, some of which are remarkable for their resemblance to landscapes. By taking advantage of the arrangement of the dark seams and dendritic patches, patterns are obtained that resemble moss, sea growth, ferns, rushes, trees, and landscapes with water and islands. The cut gems consist of stones suitable for use in brooches, stick pins, watch fobs, belt buckles, and other ornaments. The gems cut from the Montana moss agate or mocha stone command good prices, bringing anywhere from \$1 to \$200 or \$300 apiece. Some of the smaller stones suitable for stick pins, if the mossy or fern-like patterns are particularly delicate and beautiful, bring \$25 each.

Most of American diamonds come from Arkansas and California, although accounts have appeared in newspapers of the discovery of these gems in Illinois and Texas. The most important find of the year in Arkansas was an 8 1-8 carat white diamond—the largest diamond so far found in the State. Another white diamond, of 3 4-6 4-4 carats, was also found.

The largest emerald so far discovered in North Carolina measured about 1 inch by 3-4 of an inch by half an inch. It was about half of a crystal split parallel with the length. This piece has been cut into about 20 gems, the largest of which weighs about 3 carats. This stone has been described as having an excellent deep-green color and as being particularly beautiful at night. It has almost no visible flaws but is slightly foggy in strong daylight.

Considerable business in gems is done among tourists along the coast of California and Oregon, the beach pebbles having peculiar textures, odd markings, and pleasing colors. Some of these stones have been described in terms suggested by characteristic features such as "enychthol," "flower stone," "wire agate," "fish egg" and "Japanese stone." One company in Avalon, Cal., has been engaged in cutting these stones for several years. The stone is obtained in all sizes, from cobbles over 6 inches thick to small pebbles, but good gem material is not plentiful. Beach pebbles are collected and cut for

the tourist trade along the coast of Oregon, as in southern California. The tourists also collect these pebbles to carry off as souvenirs, either polished or in the rough.

A copy of the Survey's report on Gems and Precious Stones, 1911, by Douglas B. Sterrett, may be obtained free on application to the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

TO MAKE LOGANBERRY JUICE

Agricultural College Professor Explains Method for Making Delicious Drink.

O. A. C., CORVALLIS, ORE., July 13.—Prof. C. I. Lewis, of the Oregon Agricultural College, who is responsible for much of the growth in popularity of the loganberry, has an excellent method of preparing the juice so that it will keep through the winter.

"Loganberries make a most delightful beverage," says Prof. Lewis. "To prepare the juice, put the berries on the stove with just enough water to keep the fruit from scorching. Heat slowly, mixing and crushing occasionally with a large spoon. Be sure not to allow the berries to boil; 180 degrees would be, probably, as much heat as necessary. After the berries have softened, put them in an ordinary cloth bag and drain out the juice. The process can be much simplified by a small fruit press.

"In choosing the berries try to get those thoroughly ripe. Add one-third the amount of sugar when the juice is put on the stove, and stir occasionally until it is thoroughly heated, but do not allow it to boil. If it boils the vinous flavor is destroyed, and the high aroma as well. In bottling the juice drive the cork in slightly and fill the space with paraffin.

"This is a most healthful beverage. Half an inch to an inch in a glass of water will be enough. Some may wish to add more sugar, though the acid flavor is pleasant. It is, I believe, superior to grape juice. The time will come when Oregon will be shipping out train loads of this juice to the east and middle west. It will become a popular drink in regions where it is very warm in summer. It is extremely refreshing and cool, and children may be allowed to drink as much as they wish.

"The loganberry makes one of the finest jellies known, also. Truly our loganberry is coming to its own. With the great demand for canned fruit, a similar demand for the dried, and with the possibilities along the line of juices, syrups and jellies, there is a great future for the loganberry industry."

Rapid Progress of Double Track Work.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 12.—The contract for the construction of fifteen miles of second track on the Southern Pacific, which will connect the towns of Truckee, California, and Reno, Nevada, has just been awarded to the Utah Construction Company. This is the latest part of the construction of a second track on the Harriman Lines between Omaha and San Francisco. Already hundreds of men are employed in clearing away underbrush along this stretch of fifteen miles. Camps, military in appearance, line the track and few people traveling over the line realize just what a stupendous job this

fifteen mile stretch will be.

A large part of the proposed double tracking of the Southern Pacific has already been completed. Between Sacramento and Colfax the second track is already in operation. The laying of the second track from Benicia to Sacramento, a distance of 58 miles, is completed with the exception of 8 miles between Webster and Washington. This stretch of 8 miles involves the raising of the roadbed across the Yolo Basin and the rebuilding of approximately two miles of bridges. It will probably be completed about the first of October and there will then be a double track the entire distance between Oakland Pier and Colfax.

Between the Oakland Pier and Port Costa the second track has been in operation for some months. From the Pier to Richmond the company is operating four tracks continuously. A little more than 25 miles of second track has been laid and is being operated on the Salt Lake division of the road approximate to the Lucin cut-off. The laying of the second track over Nevada will not be such a problem as has been the same kind of work in the mountain districts. By the first of October there will be about 142 miles of double track line in operation. The engineers in charge of the work have no fear but that it will be complete from San Francisco to Omaha by the time of the exposition.

The Trajectory of a Thing.

The trajectory of a thing is the path of a bullet or anything else passing through the air from the gun to the place where it strikes. Generally the word is applied only to bullets and cannon balls. In shooting at an object near at hand you aim point blank, because the bullet practically reaches the target before it falls at all, but when you fire at a distant object you must aim above it, so that the bullet may have room to fall and yet hit the object. The desire of every marksman is to get a trajectory as flat as possible, so that the bullet shall have no need of falling very far. A flat trajectory is obtained by increasing the speed of the bullets, by diminishing their size and increasing the powder charge.

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