

WORLD'S GOLD PRODUCT.

Interesting Facts Regarding the Yellow God.

Until 1898 the United States had been the largest producer of gold in the world, but in that year it was surpassed both by Africa and Australia.

The bearing that the South African gold production will have on international affairs is one of the questions of the near future. The industry has developed in that region with marvelous rapidity. Production began in 1887. In the twelve years that have elapsed the total output has amounted to \$125,000,000. Practically the entire yield is from quartz. The fact that the dark continent has become so suddenly such an enormous producer of the metal, without passing through the usual preliminary stage of placer and stream mining, indicates unmistakably that it is going to remain a steady and large one.

In the year 1872 the production was 173.9 tons of gold and 196.9 tons of silver; and between the years 1700 and 1870 the coinage ratio and the commodity valuation was as one of gold to 15.20 to 15.51 of silver.

In the year 1899 the production was 520 tons of gold and 5500 tons of silver; and the demonetization of silver among the nations having taken place (1871-73), the commodity ratio began to change in 1874, and at the close of 1899 stood at 35.2.

The legal value of gold is \$20.67 per ounce. At this rate a troy ton of the metal is worth \$496,123.20, and an avoirdupois ton is worth \$602,921.93.

The director of the United States mint estimates that \$5,000,000 worth of gold is annually used in this country in dentistry and \$2,000,000 worth in sign painting.

For the last ten years the manufacture of gold bars and coins by the various nations of the world for use as money has consumed on an average about 375 avoirdupois tons of metal annually, and is at present calling for about 450 tons. The coinage is not included in this figure.

During 1896-97-98 and '99 the movements of coined gold among the nations may be approximately stated about as follows:

France has lost about 2 per cent of her stock.

Russia has lost about 3 per cent of her stock.

Germany has lost about 4 1/2 per cent of her stock.

Italy has lost about 10 per cent of her stock.

England has lost about 15 per cent of her stock.

Austria has gained to the extent of about 16 per cent.

Spain has gained to the extent of about 30 per cent.

United States has gained to the extent of about 50 per cent.

India, China and the Orient generally have been gainers of the metal to the extent of about \$150,000,000 altogether. According to the United States mint officials the European banks and treasurers held on January 1 about \$1,595,000,000 in gold, as against \$1,591,000,000 on January 1, 1896. At the same dates the United States banks and treasury held respectively \$554,000,000 as against \$318,000,000.—T. F. Van Wagenen, E. M., in American Metal Mining.

Output of \$370,000 a Month on \$3 Ore.

The great Homestake mine, near Deadwood, South Dakota, is turning out \$185,000 every fifteen days. The ore is free milling, and runs about \$3 to the ton. Much of the values have been lost, but the company is now putting in a cyanide

plant and will work over the tailings, and the output is expected to nearly double in consequence. The ore body is about 600 feet wide and over a mile long. The manager told me recently that working at their present capacity it will take twenty-five years to exhaust the ore already blocked out down to the 800-foot level. Below that the ore becomes more refractory, but there is an incalculable quantity. The Homestake employs about 1500 men, and about as many more are employed in the other mines. The Homestake is one of the old mines of the country, and one of the largest. It was discovered in 1875, and has been working since the following year.—Spokesman-Review.

Started a Tunnel and Ordered a Mill.

This is a big country and full of mineral. It is very little prospected as yet, but the boys are waking up to their opportunities and unless one gets back five or six miles from the roads leading to Sumpter he will find blazed trees staring him in the face on every hand. The ore is low grade in this section, running from \$12 to \$16, and from 75 to 80 per cent is saved on the plates, and the concentrates are then cyanided. The veins are so big and permanent and so easily worked that ore of this grade is a bonanza. As soon as the ore is struck the owners commence to figure on a mill for they know it is a sure thing. I know of one property where a little superficial work was done on the cropping, showing good values. The owners went down the hill, started a 700-foot tunnel and ordered the mill, which is now on the ground waiting for the tunnel to tap the vein. Not good mining, perhaps, but it shows the confidence the people have in the permanency of the ore bodies. There is wood and water in abundance and every convenience necessary to cheapen the cost of mining and milling of ore.—Granite Correspondent in Salt Lake Mining Review.

Mining Industry Open to All.

Mining is the most profitable business open to men of money and brains. So long as prospectors by the hundreds are in the field constantly making new discoveries; so long as a steady increasing force of miners are constantly developing mines from prospects and increasing the output of the mines already developed; so long as the best brains of the country are busy in developing new appliances by which it is made possible to treat lower grade ores at a profit, just so long the mining business will continue to grow in public favor. Mining is no longer considered a gamble by well informed people. It has come to be acknowledged as a legitimate and reasonably certain road to wealth. The field is open to all and when intelligence and capital are united, it is a field full of golden promise.—Mining Reporter.

Ohio Group Sold for \$30,000.

Joseph Basler went today to Baker City to meet some Salt Lake capitalists, who have made an offer for the Ohio group of mining claims. The sale has been consummated through the agency of Cleaver Brothers at Baker City. It is understood the price is to be \$30,000 for the claims, near the Powers group and the Eccentric owned by Portland parties. Three tunnels have been driven on the claims and a shaft sunk, one of the tunnels being 600 feet deep. Jacob Sheerman and August Standier are with Mr. Basler in the ownership.—East Oregonian.

W. H. Gleason the Next Commissioner.

Sumpter's mayor, W. H. Gleason, will be elected commissioner of Baker county. He is a practical business man and in every way competent to be a valuable officer on the county board. The people appreciate the importance of Sumpter and its right to have a commissioner to look after road and other matters in that rapidly developing mining center. Mr. Gleason means a continuance of good management of county financial affairs.—Democrat.

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