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MINES OF OLD MEXICO.

## One Property That Has Been Worked For

 350 Years.Mr. Henry C. Hall of Colorado Springs, gives the "Mining Recora" of that sity some interesting information about the mines of Mexico, on his return from an extended visit to that country. He savs Mexko preseats many features of special interest to mining men, aside from the generat interest one finds in that country. He says the district of Guanajuato is perhaps one of the most remarkable mining haps one of the most remarkable mining
camps in the world. It is over 3 so years old and is traversed by an unmense mother vein, which has vielded millions upon millions in silver. The property of the Vatenciana, it is estimated, has produced $\$ 800,000,000$ in ore. The shaft on this mine imeasures thirty eight leet across and is ontagonal it shape. Operations were cartied on by means of eight-horse winches and 1,000 stallions were employed in the work on the property. The shaft has at tained a depth of 2,000 and the workings of it are simply wonderful. It is a tematkable fact that the great mother vein has been mined for a distance of seven miles, and it is said produced one-tenth of the world's sitver product. To arrive at the exact poduction, however, would require some tiguring, as there are several old properties which were formerly operated and later neglested

It is a curtous fact that so little has been satd of this seition, siace it presents so many interesting features. In the first place, the age of some of the mines is interesting, and if one could trace the history of them since the time they were discovered, many interesting stories would be unfolded. There is one property there which ant English company has work-d for eighty years and three senerations lave been tepresented in is
management. The value of this ore in some instarces is fabulous, ore having been mined froh the Valenciana worth $\$ 10,000$ a ton. While the mines are almost wholly silver propositions, some gold has been found in paying quantities. Labor is very cheap, the average price paid being about so cents a day.
In connection with the silver wealth of the country of which I have been speaking, there is one substantial proof of it at Guanajuato. A church there is solidly built of silver ore as it was mined from the earth, and the several altars in the editiceare plated with gold said to be worth $\$ 60,000$. I understand that immense ofters have been made for the church buiding, the object being to tear it down for the silver it is worth. The authorities, however, have rejected all offers and the church still stands as one of the evidences of the wealth of that section.
It may be astonishing, says the Mining Record, to the average person that such wealth propositions as are said to exist in Mevico should have beell permitted to lay die, but Mr. Hall explains this by the dat that Hr. Hall explains this by the lat that the crude operations of the mining there and the laxity of tities to the property have caused complications to arise which have resulted in some propefties being abandoned. The activity, however, is fast being renewed with the modern methods of mining introduced and the advancement of the country and the people should be very rapid. It is a fact that now the underground workings of several properties are flooded by water to such a extent that the most expert engineering and management would be required to get them into shape for the resumption of operations. In one instance a large property is said to have an underground lake that is one of the vonders of that section. There are a number of properties that are being successfulv operated, however, and an im. from the big mother vein.

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