Demand Increasing, Supply Decreasing, Prices Rising.

That the demand for quicksilver is increasing while the supply is visibly diminishing, may be a matter of congratulation for dealers in the slippery metal, but it is a serious thing for gold producers to consider. And the advanced price is not the only thing for thought, but the failure of an output sufficient to meet the present demand would have the effect of stagnation in gold mining to that extent, for there is nothing that is known to science which has such an affinity for the precious vellow metal.

A few statistics may prove interesting in this connection. While quickstiver is found in various parts of the world it is in such small quantities that in many districts its production is unprofitable.

On a commercial scale it is only produced in Spain, Austria, Italy, and the United States. Mexico and Russia have produced small quantities for years past, copper fields, where he has spent the past without effect on the world's markets, as both these countries are large consumers and importers of that metal.

Since 1850 the United States has produced over two-fifths of the entire world's output of quicksilver, says a noted authority. Practically all of this comes from California. Out of the 29,713 flasks produced in this country in 1889, 29,454 came trom California.

While quicksilver is used in the arts and manufactures, its chief value is in the separation of gold from auriferous ores, in the manufacture of fine paints and the preparation of medicinal compounds and explosives. As an amalgamating agent in the treatment of gold ores it occupies the first place in the mining world, and the demand for it is invariably ahead of the supply. Its use in the arts is also extending, and makes a great drain in the world's product of this valuable metal.

The ore from which quicksilver is most commonly produced is cinnabar. 'From this are the metal is obtained by roasting. When heated in a suitable manner to 665 deg. F. or higher, the cinnabar becomes desulphurized, the mercury passing over in vapor from the furnace to the cooling chambers or condensors. These condensers, usually made of brick, are of sufficlent size and number to permit the mercurial fumes to cool upon the walls and floors, where they gather in large globules of mercury. These globules uniting, gravitate to the receiving trough and from thence run into large receivers, from which the metal is drawn into flasks and is ready for use for market.

These flasks are uniform in size the world over. The American producer, however, gives a little better weight than do blocked out and a large amount of it is on the Europeans, the American flask, when the dump. The richest ore from this filled, weighing 76.51 pounds (usually counted 761/2 pounds), as against 76.08 pounds of the European flasks.

The largest production of quicksilver in California occurred from 1870 to 1870, result. when the average yearly output was 40,-\$47.53. In the next decade the production in the history of the camp.-Democrat. averaged 20,767 flasks per annum, and the average price was \$33.07. From 1890 to Rocky Mountain Scenery By Day Light. 1899 the average yearly production was 28,385, and the average price \$38.28 per flask. In 1890 the production was 20,454 flasks, and the average price \$47.70, which was the highest average price since 1850. The condition of the industry last year was very satisfactory. Nearly all the & P. and Illinois Central to Chicago, California mines did well and most of them paid regular dividends.

But a much healthier condition prevails this year. For the first six months the output of quicksilver approximated that of 1899, while the price realized was much

QUICKSILVER OUTPUT, higher, averaging at San Francisco over \$51 a flask.

> The cause of the increased price during the past decade, and the still greater increase during the past two years, has been the growing demand and the diminishing supply. The demand has steadily increased, while the output of the old and famous mines, on which the world has relied for years for its supply, has been steadily decreasing.

> The production of the metal (quicksilver) has not been increasing, the output in California, the only producing region in this country, being about stationary, while the cinnabar deposits in Texas and Oregon, for which much has been promised, show no new developments. The Austrian output is nearly stationary, while the Spanish mines, from which the larger part of the foreign supply comes, last year showed a considerable decrease. Under these circumstances there is no present probability of a reduction in prices.—San Francisco Engineering and Mining Review.

SNAKE RIVER COPPER FIELDS.

Will Be One of the Best Camps in Eastern Oregon.

J. B. Bowden, of this city, returned Wednesday evening from the Snake river six weeks looking over the country and having assessment work done on claims in which he is interested.

Speaking of the country generally, Mr. Bowden says he believes it will prove to be one of the biggest camps in eastern Oregon. It may take some time to develop it on account of lack of transportation facilities, but sooner or later, its merits will become known, when it will come rapidly to the front. He believes that next year will show a big change in conditions of that section. Monied men have become interested there and others are looking that way for investment.

All the work heretofore done in that camp, outside of one or two properties, has been in the way of development. A great deal of this kind of work has been done the past season. While the ore on the surface on many of the properties would pay if means of reduction were near at hand, they are not rich enough to ship such long distances. As development work progressed, however, and greater depth was attained many of these properties have shown up ore in large quant ties that would pay to ship.

If reduction works are established in that district next year, well and good, if not you may expect to see a great deal of the richest ore pass through Baker City on the way to outside smelters, while the lower grade rock will be piled on the dumps to await the construction of local

The McDougall group is one of the many that will commence shipping in the spring. Wagon roads have been built and houses erected for winter quarters. Large bodies of high grade ore have been group will be shipped in large quantities next spring. In fact several shipments have been made from there as a test, and invariably good returns have been the

More men will be at work in that district the coming winter than at any time

Day light stop over at Niagara Falls. Through first-class tourist sleeper from Pacific Coast weekly for Chicago, Boston, New York and other eastern points via Rio Grande Western (Great Salt Lake Route), Denver & Rio Grande, C. R. J. connecting in the Union Depot with Michigan Central's similar car for points east.

For full particulars call on or address, B. H. TRUMBULL.

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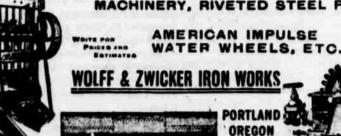
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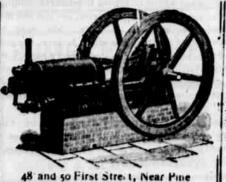
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