

THIS THE GOLDEN AGE

Enormous Increase in Production of Yellow Metal.

It is only when one looks into it in a statistical way that the enormity of the increase of gold production can be realized. Through the 49 years represented in 1851-1899 the gold mines of all countries added to the wealth of the world the enormous sum of \$6,665,631,000. This is more than double the total amount of the world's gold production from the beginning of the year 1501 to the end of 1850. The production of gold during these three and a half centuries aggregated \$3,129,720,000, according to the statement issued by the bureau of statistics at Washington, D. C., and approved by the director of the mint.

California has contributed to the world's stock of precious metals since Marshall discovered gold in the Sutter mill race at Colomo, over \$1,400,000,000. This is equal to one fourth of the total production of the half century from all sources, and is nearly one half of the amount of yellow metal mined between 1501 and 1850. California thus holds a supreme position as a gold producer, in not only the record of the latter half of the 19th century, but also in the record of the last four centuries.

During the past four years the ratio of the world's gold production has increased marvelously. This period shows an aggregate yield of \$1,043,491,000, and represents nearly one-sixth of the half century's contribution to the world's wealth. Of this amount \$247,414,000 was extracted from the placer and quartz mines of the United States, which lie chiefly in the territory west of the Missouri river. From this region the world is at present drawing one fourth of its supply, another fourth having been obtained in 1898 from the Transvaal. The mines of the Rand would have even made a better record last year and the present one had it not been for the war in South Africa. They will make a very small showing, if any at all, in the world's record this year, as there is now absolutely no prospect of an early resumption of operations in them.

This is truly a golden age. The world has never seen its equal before. But the increase in the production of the precious metal in recent years has been so extraordinarily disproportioned to that of any other corresponding period of which we have a record, that a wide field for speculation is opened up for political economists. Mining methods have been so simplified and reduced to such economical basis that the area of production has been immeasurably enlarged, while the processes of extraction are so perfect that all factors of waste have been virtually eliminated.

The prospect is, therefore, for a much greater increase in the ratio of gold production of the world during the next half century than has occurred during the one now closing. The question may consequently be asked, with some concern as to the answer, is the time approaching when there will be an overproduction of gold in the world?—Western Mining World.

Samples From the Tammany.

On Wednesday of this week the officers of the Tammany Gold Mining company received ten sacks of ore containing samples from as many different places on the ledge that extends through the two claims belonging to the company. Similar samples had previously been assayed and the value was known. It is the intention of the company to have all of the samples assayed very soon and if they make as good a showing as is anticipated, the stockholders have several fortunes hidden away in

the mountain, and only capital to develop the property is needed to make it a dividend payer at once. The samples were sent by Peter Olson, who has a contract with the company to extend the present 100-foot tunnel, 500 feet further into the ledge. The property is situated in the Cracker Creek district, near Sumpter, Oregon.—Seattle Times.

SUPPLY OF COPPER.

Foreign Demand Increasing, Our Production Falling Off.

We have been selling over a million pounds of copper a day all this year to foreign consumers. The foreign demand has been increasing, while our production has not quite held its own. It is said that our mines are prepared to increase their output to a considerable extent, but there is little prospect that the supply will be so far enhanced as to diminish the price.

In proportion to the world's supply no metal is now in so great demand as copper. The market for it is very active, because, though the United States and all the leading nations of Europe are great consumers, none of them produce it in large quantities except this country. The United Kingdom, France and Germany are by far the largest buyers of copper ingots, bars and plates in Europe, but none of them produces the metal except Germany, and the German output is only from 17,000 to 20,000 tons a year. Great Britain can buy copper in no part of her vast empire except in Australia and Canada, and the receipts from these sources are only a small part of the metal she consumes.

But we have plenty of copper and to spare. The United States produce more than one-half, and Spain and Portugal one-fourth of the world's supply. We sell about one-half of the copper we mine, though we lead the world in the amount of copper consumed. Great Britain, France and Germany buy nearly all of the United States' product that is sold abroad; and about one-fourth as much copper as we sell to foreign lands is brought to this country, not for consumption here, but for conversion at our Atlantic coast refineries into plates and wire for foreign use.

The world's production has increased about one-third since 1894, and it has increased more rapidly in this country than in any other large producing region. But still the supply has scarcely kept pace with the demand, swollen constantly by the expansion of electrical industries. Next to silver, copper is the best conductor of heat and electricity; and with the vast development of the telegraph and telephone services, and the new use of electricity to transmit power and thus supplant the horse and steam engine, the demand for the metal steadily grows. Germany's consumption of copper, for example, increased 80 per cent in eight years, owing to her greater use of electricity. In addition to the large use of the metal for electrical purposes, enormous quantities are also alloyed with zinc in the production of brass, which, next to iron, is the most important metal used in the arts. And copper goes with tin to make bronze.

Fortunate is the country that is able to supply most of the raw material as well as the manufactured articles it needs. No wonder the United States excite the astonishment of other nations when they practically supply 76,000,000 people with all the breadstuffs, metals, minerals and fibers they require and have an enormous surplus to distribute to the world.—New York Sun.

Prompt attention to orders for cut flowers and floral pieces. City Green House, Baker City, Oregon.

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