

ANCIENT MINING AND SMELTING.

Supposed to be Where King Solomon Secured His Treasure.

Rhodesia, or British Zambesia, ranks among the chief gold-bearing countries of the world. The ancients mined and carried away enormous quantities of the precious metal, but under the scientific mining systems of the present day their operations will be greatly surpassed.

In the recently published work on the "Ancient Ruins of Rhodesia," the authors, Messrs. Hall and Neal, endeavor to discover who the ancients were and whither the gold went.

Perhaps Rhodesia was the ancient land of Ophir, the land of the mysterious "King Solomon's mines," but the theory is strongly combated by some investigators.

The ancient gold workings are the basis of modern workings. For every ten square miles of Rhodesia there was one ancient mine; that is, there are 75,000 old holes, which means that a stupendous wealth was dug out of the earth before the days of Cecil Rhodes.

Much of this wealth must have gone to the north and east; it was probably wrought into the crown of the Queen of Sheba and filled the coffers of Solomon.

The ancient smelting-furnaces are still easy to recognize. They are sunk into the floor. The furnace blowpipes are made of the finest granite-powder cement and the nozzles of the blowpipes are covered with splashes of gold. The linings of the holes are covered with specks of gold.

When the first lining became worn by the heat, a fresh lining of cement of an excellent quality, which has outlasted time, was smeared around on top of the old lining. One can take an old lining, split off the layers with a knife, and find gold splashes in abundance.

Apparently the ancients wasted gold lavishly. Gold has been found in large quantities in the form of pellets as large as buckshot in the vicinity of the furnace, and also thrown away in the debris heaps outside of the old buildings.

The tools of the ancient workers which have so far been discovered include a small soapstone hammer and burnishing-stones of water-worn rock, to which gold still adheres.

There are evidences that the ancients carried on an extensive industry in the manufacture of gold ornaments and utensils. Thirty-five thousand dollars' worth of gold ornaments have been taken in the last five years from the ruins of Matabeleland alone.—Journal For Investors.

GRANITE CAMP AND VICINITY.

Happenings in the Mines Around a Pioneer Town of Grant County.

From the Granite Gem of the 6th instant, the following items are culled.

It is reported that the long cross-cut tunnel at the Comstock mine has caught the ledge for which it has been driven, and that some good looking ore shows in the lead. The extent of the strike is not yet known.

The bond held by the Geiser-Hendryx company on the Cougar mine near this place has been turned to a party of New York capitalists at a handsome profit, who are only awaiting a favorable report from the experts who examined the

property, before taking charge of the mine.

Mohoney's camp, on Bull Run between this city and Sumpter, is coming to the front with some good properties. A considerable development work has been done in the nature of crosscut and drifts, varying in length from 100 to 250 feet, in which good bodies of ore with several pay shoots have been discovered.

The May Queen mine near the Red Boy has been re-incorporated under the name of the May Queen Mines company, of Baker City. The incorporators are P. Basche, John Thomsen and Geo. T. Simmons. The capital stock is \$3,000,000, and it will engage in the development of mining property.

Fred Wagner returned Wednesday evening after an absence of about ten months in the frozen North. The most of the time he was working near Dawson, N.W.T. He states that while a person may get the "Alaska fever" from reading the glowing accounts of the wonderful opportunities of becoming wealthy on short notice in that country, he has come to the conclusion that a man's chances are just as good in the Granite district and the climate is much better suited to a white man.

HEAVIEST PRODUCER.

United States Heads The List in Precious Metal Output.

Uncle Sam in his gold product, as in so many lines of industry, heads the list as the great gold producer in the world. South Africa for awhile equaled if it did not exceed us in its output of the yellow metal, but had to fall back to second place as the result of the Boer war. She is, however, still in the race and it looks as if we shall have to fight hard in the near future to hold the lead.

This gold production of ours goes steadily forward and has, as month by month and week by week the quota is added to our golden harvest, carried us safely over many a hard place in the road to prosperity when without it our industry and progress would oft have been checked.

The enterprise of our people, their irresistible force, their intelligent direction is constantly opening up new mining districts and prospecting for new fields in the vast unexplored territory known to give promise of returns more or less substantial to the hardy miners who shall uncover the golden deposits.

California, Colorado, Idaho and now Oregon have for years contributed their share of the gold output, which, since '49' has added so many hundreds of millions to the wealth of the nations.

The riches of the Comstock will doubtless find a counterpart in some of the new gold fields yet to be opened. Alaska has not yet told its tale of hidden wealth or as yet discovered the great quartz veins from which has come the gold formed in the richer placers.

Oregon, only now coming into prominence, has yet to show the extent and wealth which it is believed lies within its boundaries and promises a return to those who seek it and have the ability and means to develop its resources.

Our gold output is the great back log of the enterprise and development going in every direction around it, and emanating from it is the flame that kindles the desire and efforts of the whole people.

It is the production that needs no favorable conditions to dispose of, and

the market for which never fluctuates and can not be overstocked.—"Daily Financial News."

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