

ALASKA'S OUTPUT.

Increased From Two And a Half To Eight Millions Since 1897.

The gold output of Alaska increased from \$2,500,000 in 1897 to about \$8,000,000 in 1902. Most of the Alaskan gold comes from placer diggings.

Few quartz mines outside the older mines, such as the famous Treadwell, near Juneau, are producing any metal. The quartz mines of Southern Alaska are being opened, and within the next few years will add materially to the mineral production of the territory.

At present, however, at least three-fourths of the gold obtained in Alaska is coming from the placer mines. They produced \$6,000,000 or more in 1902, about \$5,500,000 coming from the Seward peninsula gold fields.

As is mentioned above, about eleven-twelfths of the placer gold mined last year came from the Seward peninsula, on whose southwest coast the famous Nome beach is situated. Though the yield of this district was about \$5,500,000, the year was not favorable for the largest gold output.

The months of July and August, the height of the mining year, were dry, and hence little sluicing could be done. The output would have been much larger if water had been available earlier in the season. The so-called tundra placers back of the beach still continue to be worked, but their development has not been commensurate with their probable importance. During the four years since the discovery of the Nome placers the gold seeker has gradually worked his way inland, so that some prospecting has been done over nearly the entire Seward peninsula. During the last season gold mining was going on in the Nome region proper in the region of the Solomon and Eldorado rivers and along other streams tributary to Behring Sea, mainly, as the map shows, in the south part of the peninsula.

The large increase in the output of Ophir Creek, a northern tributary of the Niukluk, is of special interest. Its production last year was over \$1,000,000, and there is no reason to doubt that other streams may have similar development.

The new diggings in the Copper River region produced about \$25,000. Gold in commercial quantity has been found at widely separated places in the Copper River basin.

The Chistochina gold fields, from which nearly all the gold of this region has been obtained, is in the basin of river of that name which joins the Copper about 200 miles from the coast. The district contains several gold producing creeks which are reached by trail from Valdes. Miller Gulch in this district supplied about \$175,000 of last year's yield. Gold placers known to exist in other parts of the Copper River territory have not yet been developed.

The Cook Inlet region and the Porcupine district produced about \$100,000. No very rich placers have been found in the Cook Inlet region, though it has long been a small gold producer in the district around the head of the Inlet and

Turnagain Arm.

The Porcupine district is a small placer gold field about thirty miles from Pyramid harbor on Lynn Canal. The placers occur largely in the stream bed of Porcupine Creek, and to work them it has been necessary to divert the water of the stream by means of sluices to give access to the gravels in the creek bed. This development was in progress last year, and the district has not yet reached a large productive stage.

The remainder of the placer gold produced last year, about \$175,000, came from the Yukon basin, chiefly from the new diggings on Glen Creek. This creek is a small tributary of Baker Creek, which enters the Tanana from the north about eighty miles from the Yukon.

The Glen Creek mining camp is on the site of the most important discovery of placer gold made in the interior of Alaska during the seasons of 1901 and 1902. The camp is about twenty-eight miles nearly due south of the town of Rampart on the Yukon River. In some places the pay streak has a width of from twenty to sixty feet, and in one place a pay streak seven feet thick is reported. The Nome gold placers are confined to the little streams and benches within an area of about one mile wide and two to three miles long.

Considerable gold was also taken out of the Upper Koyukuk basin, the large northern tributary of the Yukon. The metal is chiefly derived from a half dozen creeks tributary to the river and about 600 miles from its mouth.

The Birch Creek region tributary to the Yukon near the Arctic Circle, is also producing some gold. At various other places also a little placer mining is being done on small creeks tributary to the Yukon.—American Mining News.

OFF ON VACATION.

Hon. J. H. Robbins Left Yesterday But Will Return in September.

Hon. J. H. Robbins left yesterday to spend his vacation at Priest's Lake, Idaho. Mrs. Robbins and their sons left Saturday for Pendleton, where they will be joined by Mr. Robbins, who will spend a day or so in Baker City on business matters before leaving. A number of Pendleton people will be in the party.

Mr. Robbins will go to Spokane about September 1, where he will spend a short time arranging business affairs returning here during the early part of the month. Mr. Robbins will open an office in the First National Bank building, where he will transact business relating to his interests in the district. Mrs. Robbins will go with her sons to Portland or wherever it is definitely decided for them to attend school. Some reports have it that Mr. Robbins is going to make his headquarters in Spokane, others state Seattle, and so on. He says:

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