

INTERNAL REVENUE

\$230,000,000.

The Commissioner of internal revenue says that the receipts for the current fiscal year from all sources of internal taxation will not be less than \$230,000,000. This estimate, he says in his annual report to the secretary of the treasury, is predicted on the returns of the first three months of the fiscal period and on existing trade conditions. Last year's receipts were \$230,740,925.

For the current fiscal year, yesterday's treasury statement gives the internal revenue collections actually covered into the treasury since July 1 to date as \$100,428,424. The figures for the same date last year were \$96,422,633. Last year's entire receipts were about \$41,000,000 less than those of the fiscal year 1902, owing to the repeal of war taxes.

The commissioner says his estimate would need to be revised if Congress should reduce the tax on proof spirits from \$1.10 to ninety cents or even seventy cents a gallon, as many of the distilleries demand. It is believed, however, that Congress will not do this, in view of the decreasing customs receipts and the present small deficit in the treasury. Even if a reduction in the rate on proof spirits should be ordered, it would probably not become effective before the end of the present fiscal year.

The Internal Revenue bureau was concerned largely during the last year with the refunds on account of war revenue stamps, and with the administration of the new oleomargarine law. The work of the bureau is constantly increasing. One cause of this condition appears in the fact that in 1902 the total production of spirits was 132,843,802 gallons, and in 1903, 148,206,875 gallons. In round numbers, in 1902 104,000,000 gallons of tax paid spirits were withdrawn and in 1903 114,000,000 gallons. There has been a large increase in the production of tobacco and beer.

The Peoria district in Illinois, which is in the center of the corn belt, and the leading producer of corn whisky, showed larger receipts from internal revenue last year than any other district in the United States. The collections were \$32,413,033. Illinois, therefore, stood first among the states, with collections amounting to \$50,562,455; Indiana second, \$28,183,610; New York third, \$26,749,648 and Kentucky fourth, \$21,115,626.

DIXIE MEADOWS

MILL FINISHED.

C. O. Trowbridge, of Spokane, who has had charge of the construction of the Dixie Meadows concentrator, left for Spokane this afternoon after having completed the plant, and finished up everything ready for operation. The mill will be started up, Mr. Trowbridge says, the middle of next week. It has a capacity of 100 tons and Mr. Trowbridge thinks it is one of the best to be found in eastern Oregon. He has, also, a most favorable impression of the mine. Speaking of this he said:

"I believe that the Dixie Meadows is one of the coming big producers of eastern Oregon. This is the first mill I have ever built in this part of the state, and I have great faith in the section in general and the Dixie Meadows in particular. The fact that the property has a vein of good milling ore, averaging between forty and fifty feet, is evidence sufficient of its greatness.

"The management has cut an upraise of 140 feet between the middle and lower tunnels and every foot of it is in good ore. Tons and tons of ore are blocked out, and a large force is constantly employed doing development work."

PLANT TO OPERATE
WITHIN FEW DAYS

The Snow Creek mill will probably begin operations, it is stated, within the next week. Everything is in practical readiness to start and if nothing unforeseen takes place the stamps will be dropping in a few days.

Manager Fred D. Smith has made an exceptional record in the construction of this plant. Although delayed by the early snow fall, he has kept things moving and has rapidly rushed the work to completion. The Snow Creek mill is a modern ten stamp plant, well constructed and will doubtless provide a satisfactory treatment for the ores. The property is regarded as among the coming mines of the Greenhorn district. W. W. Elmer, well known in mining circles throughout eastern Oregon, has been retained as consulting engineer by the company.

ERA OF GREAT WEALTH

HAS COME TO STAY.

Society is fast becoming richer than was foreshadowed in the most audacious dreams of the past. Measured by the standards of today, Croesus was a person of very moderate fortune; and the revenues of kings are of small account compared with the incomes of the leading capitalists of the twentieth century.

There are some who think that the production of wealth is abnormal and who are predicting a return to the old scale of values in the near future. There are, however, no signs of any reduction of energy, any decline of force, any exhaustion either of the genius which creates wealth or of the material out of which wealth is developed. There are, on the contrary, many things which indicate that society is in the early stages of a wealth-producing period the like of which has not occurred before, but has never been anticipated by the most sanguine men of affairs.

Great changes will undoubtedly be made in the methods of distribution of wealth, but there will be no diminution in its production. History processes are now bearing the slow fruitage of time in the opening up of the entire globe, the drawing together of races in free competition in the field of the world, the discovery of the magical power of co-operation and combination and their application to commerce and trade on a great scale, and, above all, the application of science to business in all departments, from the uses of chemistry in manufacturing to the uses of electricity in swift communication and conveyance of goods. —Hamilton W. Mabie.

TO OPERATE CRANE
FLATS IN SPRING.

Frank Burbridge of Burch & Burbridge, Spokane, who recently made the first payment on the Crane Flat Placers, came in from Granite today on his way to Baker City. This firm is also operating the Independence in the Granite district.

Work at the placers has been closed down for the winter, but will be resumed in the spring on an extensive scale. It is a dredger proposition, and this machinery will be installed with the opening of the season. During the firm's bond the ground was thoroughly prospected and its richness decided the matter of taking it over.

TO DEVELOP THE
MICHIGAN GROUP.

J. M. McPhee, superintendent of the Golden Wizard, is arranging to start work on the Michigan group, owned by himself and associates, in a few days.

The group contains three claims and adjoins the Golden Wizard on the east. Only the location work so far has been done, but Mr. McPhee states that he will undertake extensive development of the property at once.

NATURE'S LABORATORY
YIELDING READY MADE ACID.

Superintendent Hennessey states this as a fact, relative to the Goldbug-Grizzly mine. He says there are places under ground where the water which drops down from the ledge matter above will eat a hole in an iron shovel in a few hours. His explanation seems reasonable, and the only one.

They have not yet reached hard, solid quartz. At the present depth it is decomposed, so soft that it can be crushed in one's hand. The water, which is always found in ledge matter, percolates through this soft, highly mineralized ore, and through the resulting chemical action the acid is formed.

He has not had this acid-water analyzed, to determine its character. Nature's laboratory seems to be engaged in a novel enterprise up at the Goldbug-Grizzly.

WILLIAM WELLS ELMER

CONSULTING MINING
ENGINEER

Office Hotel Sumpter, SUMPTER, OREGON

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