

WILD GUESS AT OREGON'S TOTAL GOLD PRODUCTION

Local Mining Man Points Out Some Glaring Absurdities of Estimate Made in Portland.

Down Portland way there are a lot of farmers, former bank clerks, newspaper men, janitors and the like, thrown out of employment for one reason or another, who have usurped for themselves the management of Oregon's mining affairs—as mining is viewed in the agricultural community of Portland. None of them manage any mines, but they all pose as unimpeachable authority on every phase of the mining industry.

During the past few days several gentlemen, whose business it is to extract gold from the surrounding mountains, have called The Miner's attention to an absurd article in the Pacific Miner, published at Portland, in which one, P. S. Bates, who is said to be chairman of the executive committee of the Oregon Miners' association, which pretends to give the gold production of eastern Oregon mines. He places the total output at \$4,365,000. Commenting on this statement, a mining man who knows as much about that great dark secret as any one individual can learn, said to a Miner representative today:

"I can't quite divine the object of the man in placing such a ridiculously low estimate on our gold production; but it certainly displays an ignorance of the subject which is somewhat gratifying to people who are engaged in mining and have become a trifle weary of these Portland farmers butting into the game non every possible occasion, without ever doing any thing to aid the industry.

"Here are some of Mr. Bates' figures, Bonanza, \$1,060,000. That mine has not produced a penny less than \$3,000,000. The same figures are given for the North Pole, which

MILLIONS IN SILVER DISAPPEAR ANNUALLY

The absorption of silver by the inhabitants of India, China, Japan and the other Asiatic countries has been a source of wonder and speculation to students of, economy for many centuries. Pliny called Asia "the sink of silver," for the reason that, no matter how much is poured into that continent, it still cries for more. The capacity of the Hindoos, Chinese and Japanese for the absorption of silver seems absolutely limitless. Great quantities of the white metal must be stored somewhere in those vast and densely populated countries, the inhabitants of which use the small silver coin almost exclusively.

Millions in silver are poured into the trade channels of these regions annually and pass like so many streams of water onward, to be swal-

lowed up in the ocean of humanity, among the teeming millions of the Orient, never to be recovered. It is practically lost forever to commerce and must be followed by new supplies, for the demand is insatiable.

Where does all the silver which is sent to Asia go, after it passes into the hands of the natives? Is it buried by the Hindoos, hoarded in the temples, or lost? These questions have never been satisfactorily answered and statesmen and statisticians are yet puzzled concerning the unaccountable absorption of silver. Enough of the white metal has passed in through the gates of India and disappeared forever, to pave the streets of the great cities of the world.

In 1903, about \$40,000,000 in silver was exported from London to India, China and the Straits Settlements, \$30,000,000 of which went to India. That large amount will be like a pebble dropped into the sea. It will be absorbed—will disappear among the millions of inhabitants in India and a very small amount com-

paratively will ever return to commercial use.—Mining and Engineering Review.

GOOD STRIKE AT PHIL SHERIDAN

A report from Granite states that Jack Monahan and Dunk McDonald, who have a lease on the Phil Sheridan group, in the Granite district, from C. S. Miller, that an exceedingly rich strike has been made.

An ore body was encountered in the shaft recently started and now down about fourteen feet, which averages between \$60 and \$70, the report states. The vein measures from fourteen inches to two feet.

This property has been producing rich ore for some time, and has made a number of shipments to the smelter here. The new body, however, has just been broken into.

FRED SMITH GOES TO OLD MEXICO.

Fred D. Smith, manager for the Snow Creek mine, left this afternoon for the City of Mexico to be gone until about May 1.

Mr. Smith goes to Mexico on important mining business, but his return to Sumpter is assured, since as he told the bunch of friends who were at the train to see him off, that he is leaving his wife and baby behind, and they will bring him back.

Causes of Mining Failures.

The causes of mining failures are numerous and apparently contradictory. For example, over-capitalization, under-capitalization, careless management, reckless examination, refractory nature of the ore, no water, too much water, no ore, etc. Most of these difficulties can be overcome, except the lack of ore. Generally speaking, the operations of skilled miners most frequently fail for lack of sufficient capital; operations of unprofessional miners and of companies frequently fail because of over-capitalization. How often does one see splendid prospects fail because the lessees have insufficient money to provide adequate appliances? Then, too, how often companies spend far more money on a mine than they can ever hope to pull out?—Mining Reporter.

MINING IS IN GREATER FAVOR

Radical Change in Public Sentiment Toward The Industry in East.

L. Van Hecke, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a director in the Midway company, arrived this morning, and will remain several days on matters connected with the property. Mr. Van Hecke says that the financial situation in the middle west is extremely good. Since the first of the year money has been gradually loosening up and at this time conditions are generally prosperous. The thing which strikes Mr. Van Hecke most favorably is the change which public sentiment has undergone relative to mining investments. He says:

"Two years ago men with money to invest who would not entertain a mining proposition of any sort are now eager to get mixed up in some mining deal or other. This was very clearly illustrated a few days before I left, in the instance of a man who two years ago would not talk any phase of mining and very loudly condemned those who did. I approached him once on the subject and there was nothing doing. A short time back I met him on the train and voluntarily he said: 'Say, can you put me next to a good mining proposition. I want something where I can get in on the ground floor and where I will be given an even break for my money.'

"Now, this man is not a solitary example, but the representative of a large class of moneyed citizens who are eager to put their money into mining propositions if they can have the assurance that everything is square and honorable, and that they are taking legitimate risks. Mining has made wonderful strides into the good graces of the investing public within the past few years."

Broke Ventilating Fan.

The Scandia Tunnel, in the Granite district, had to close down temporarily yesterday on account of breaking a ventilating fan. Manager Wade sent to Baker to have the repair made, and things will be going as usual in a few days.

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