

WORLD'S COPPER PRODUCTION

**Doubled in Twelve Years,
But Increased Only
Slightly of Late.**

The world's production of copper, which has shown an increase of 118.5 per cent in the 15 years since 1888, and which has almost exactly doubled in the 12 years since 1891, has shown in the last three years a more moderate growth. For ten or twelve years the average increase each year was between 8 and 10 per cent, but last year it was only 4.5 per cent, as compared with 1902.

We give on another page the estimate prepared by Messrs. Henry R. Merton & Co. of London, whose long experience and acquaintance with the trade give them exceptional facilities for collecting statistics and estimating quantities where necessary. The figures prepared by them are generally accepted as very close approximations to absolute correctness. For the past year they have used for the United States the output as collected and estimated by the Engineering and Mining Journal. In the following table we give a condensed statement of the world, as estimated by Messrs. Merton, for 1902 and 1903, the figures being in long tons, of 2,240 pounds:

	1902		1903	
	Tons	Pct.	Tons	Pct.
United States	292,870	54.1	208,650	52.8
Other No. Am.	25,270	10.2	66,695	11.8
South America	38,750	7.2	40,685	7.2
Europe	91,540	16.9	94,020	16.6
Asia	29,775	5.5	31,360	5.6
Africa	4,450	0.8	5,230	0.9
Australasia	28,640	5.3	29,000	5.1
Totals	541,295	100	565,820	100

The total increase shown last year was 24,525 tons, or 4.5 per cent. Nearly one-half of this was from the mines of North America outside of the United States; that is, from Mexico and Canada. South American mines showed some gain, chiefly owing to more active work in Chile, and not to the opening of new mines. The European increase was nearly all from Russia, while that of Asia was from Japan. The gain in Africa was due to the recovery of mines in Namaqualand from the injuries inflicted in the Boer war. The output of Australasia was stationary and we do not see the promised gain from new mines in New South Wales and Queensland. As for several years past, the greater part of the production was from pyrite deposits of Mount Lyell, in Tasmania.

In fact, the new sources of copper supply opened in the past two or three years are all in North America. The new mines of the Lake Superior region and of the Bisbee district in Arizona, in the United States; the Cananea and Nacozari deposits in Mexico, and the mines of the Boundary district in Canada are the important copper producers lately developed. We have heard a great deal about the deposits of copper in Rhodesia, but very little has been done there; no proof of their value in the form of actual shipments of metal has been recorded.

Besides the production given above, it is believed that there is

some copper mined in China. It is impossible, however, to ascertain any facts with regard to this, and therefore it is not included in any of the reports.

We have reason to anticipate a somewhat greater increase in output in 1904 than was shown in 1903. The United States production will be greater, unless conditions should arise which cannot now be foreseen; and a larger output may be expected from Mexico, where the conditions are very favorable for growth. Some falling off may be looked for in Japan, but the loss will not be important in relation to the total.

The world's consumption of copper seems to increase about as fast as the production. Lower consumption in the United States this year is met by more active demand abroad, and it seems quite likely that our own consumption will improve later in the year.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

BEAUTIFUL JOHN DAY VALLEY

Frank E. Hobson, the civil engineer, who is spending a few days in Sumpter, having arrived last week from Portland, says that he and his company will make no attempt this year to develop the John Day Water power. According to Mr. Hobson, the country is not in shape to contract for electrical power in sufficient amount to warrant the expenditure at this time of a large amount of money for generating machinery.

"The John Day valley," said Mr. Hobson to a Miner representative yesterday, "is one of the most beautiful and most fertile in all the northwest. It is rich in varied resources, most of which are in a latent state, pending the provision of cheap transportation. When a railway is built into that region it will at once develop into a great country. At present the citizens of the John Day region are laying on their oars, waiting until such time as the whistle of locomotives gives them the signal to get in and dig. The people of John Day are not particularly enthusiastic over the promised advent of the Sumpter Valley railway. They look forward to the coming of a broad gauge road. They anticipate great things from Major Bonta, and have awakened to the importance of the Hendryx projected road from the Columbia to the Snake, via John Day city and the Malheur pass.

"All of the resources of the Inland Empire, comprising the counties of Grant, Harney and Malheur, will remain in their present condition until a railway enters. But when a line of steel links that isolated region with the outer world, there will follow an unparalleled development.

"My company will hold its valuable water rights by doing the necessary work this year. When a railway enters and the country leaps to the front, as it inevitably will, we will complete our plans and generate enough power to turn every wheel in the Inland Empire."

Don't Go to St. Louis

Till you call at or write to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad. Office 134 Third Street, Portland, Oregon. Low rates to all points East, in connection with all transcontinentals.

W. S. ROWE, General Agent,
Portland, Oregon.

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Ten Roomed Residence. One of the Best Locations in town.

\$2,000

Home. Completely Furnished. Location and Grounds Delightful. Piano, Large Range and other valuable Furniture included in this. Barn and Outbuildings.

\$800

New Six Room House and Lot, nicely located. Easy terms.

\$250

Choice Resident Lot near center of town.

\$50, \$75, and \$100

Buy Choice Resident Lots not far out.

\$300

Buy House and Lot with Barn. A Comfortable Little Home.

LAUNDRY BUSINESS

I am instructed to sell the Steam Laundry business, of Sumpter, which is the Best Paying Business in town for the amount of capital required to handle it. Call and see me and get figures.

20,000

Acres now under irrigation in one of the best localities in Oregon. Are you interested in securing a home of this kind, from 40 to 160 acres. These lands in three years will be worth three times what they can be bought for at the present time. Call and see maps and get prices and terms on this property.

PLACER PROPERTY

Do you want something good in a Placer Proposition? We have rich placer ground near Sumpter, and an opportunity to secure an abundance of water for long season's work. Here is an opportunity for a person with small capital, to secure a proposition with such merit as will increase on investigation in the estimation of the most critical examiner. If interested, call and see us and get particulars.

1,280 ACRES

One of the most attractive large bodies of land in Burnt River Valley. Level as a meadow. All can be irrigated. Can be sold in size tracts to suit the purchaser, at \$15 and less per acre.

INLAND EMPIRE INVESTMENT CO.

JESSE HOBSON * * * * * MANAGER

HOTEL SUMPTER