

FOUND \$1000 BURIED GOLD

About \$1000 in gold coin was dug out of the ground near his slaughter house, near the corporate limits of Redding, Cal., by William Menzel, last Monday morning. The Searchlight tells the story as follows:

About two months ago Mr. Menzel found thirty dollars in gold coin on the surface of the ground. It was thought at the time that the coin had been dropped by two men who had invaded the premises a few evenings before and who had been shot as they took their flight. The coins were of an old date but no significance was attached to that fact at that time. But on last Sunday Mr. Menzel found a twenty-dollar gold piece sticking out of the ground edgewise in the corral. The coin was an old one and the find set him to thinking.

So on Monday morning Mr. Menzel went down to the slaughter house armed with a rake. At the first haul of the instrument over the rich diggings a lot of twenty-dollar pieces came to light. Mr. Menzel had his young son with him, and the little fellow fell on the coins screaming excitedly that they belonged to him.

The father did not dispute the claim, but kept up an industrious raking. The result was nearly one thousand dollars, all found about four inches below the surface and scattered over a small patch of ground. All of the coins were hardly recognizable, they were so tarnished.

All the coins are dated over thirty years ago. Among them are six two-and-a-half-dollar pieces, the mintage of which is seldom seen nowadays.

Mr. Menzel does not like to state the exact amount of his rich find, but confesses that it is in the neighborhood of one thousand dollars.

Mint Coinage Statistics.

A larger number of coins, and of a greater total value, was turned out from the mints of the United States during the last fiscal year than in any other since the establishment of the government. George E. Roberts, director of the mint, in his annual report to the secretary of the treasury, gives the total domestic coinage in the fiscal year ended June 30 last as \$228,202,156, while the number of pieces coined, including the coinage for the Philippine islands, Venezuela and Costa Rica, was 219,353,442. The total coinage for the Philippines was 12,552,629 pieces in silver and 635,843 pieces in nickel and bronze. The treasury has been reimbursed for the cost of the Philippine coinage, the total charges therefore to June 30, 1904, being \$26,964. In addition to the foregoing the mint at Philadelphia coined 210,000 pieces for Venezuela and 330,000 pieces in nickel for Costa Rica. The exhaustion of the stock of silver bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1900, and the consequent discontinuance of silver dollar coinage have necessitated a large reduction of the force of the New Orleans mint, which was chiefly employed upon silver. The director recommends that the present provision requiring nickel and bronze coins to be made at the Philadelphia mint be repealed, in order that the other mints may supply their

adjacent territory. He calls attention to the fact that under the provisions of the monetary act of 1900 not more than \$50,000,000 of the \$150,000,000 gold reserve can be in bullion, and he recommends that this be changed to permit of a larger supply of bars. He says that any important demand upon the treasury for gold is always for exports and that for this purpose bars are preferred to coin. The seigniorage on silver dollars coined during the year was \$3,032,495; on subsidiary silver coins, \$1,950,086, and on minor coins, \$1,349,717.—Mining World.

Oregon's Gold Output.

While the state of Oregon is producing less coal than other states of the Pacific coast, the recent development of its coal deposits are rapidly swelling the output of the state and bringing Oregon up to California. The prospects are that within another year Oregon will take precedence over California, though Washington is so far in the lead as to be safe from competition for many years to come. According to the annual report of the geological survey, the total coal production of Oregon in the calendar year 1903 was 91,144 short tons, valued at \$221,031. Compared with 1902 this is an increase of 25,496 short tons in quantity and of \$60,956 in value. The increased production is due in large part to the reopening of the Beaver Hill mine in Coos county. The entire production of the state is lignite, and most of the product is shipped to San Francisco by water. The report does not give much detail about the coal industry of Oregon, aside from a table of production for the past ten years, from which it is seen that the total output last year fell below that of 1896 and 1897. There were employed in coal mining in Oregon last year 235 men, who worked 258 days. In 1902 there were 265 men employed, working 234 days.

WATCHING THE DIAMOND TRUST

The Department of Commerce has issued a very interesting report in regard to the South African production and the United States importation of diamonds. It is said in this report that the whole diamond business is "the closest and the most powerful of trusts, for not only is the trade conducted in an underground way, concealed from all public scrutiny, but it seems to be managed independently of all custom houses intervening between Cape Colony and the United States." Surreptitious trade is now greatly favored by the secrecy with which business is conducted, values being declared in South Africa and concealed in Europe, and the whole business being carried on independent of European official records.

The vast bulk of diamonds sold in the world now comes from South Africa and the greatest market for these gems is in the United States. The people of this country, in possession of abounding prosperity, seem willing to spend their money lavishly, paying the highest price for imported diamonds, imported wines and imported opera. It is a well known fact that no other trade responds more quickly to the varying conditions of general business than

the jewelry trade, and the recent revival in business has produced a very active demand for gems and jewelry.

All the South African diamonds are exported to London and from there distributed to different parts of the world. In 1903 the total value of South African diamonds exports to Great Britain was \$26,194,019. In the same year the total imported of diamonds into the United States from all countries was \$26,507,786, or slightly more than the total output of South Africa. It should be said, however, that of this total, \$10,933,188 were uncut diamonds, and \$15,574,598 were cut diamonds, which are necessarily of higher value. The great proportion of cut diamonds imported into the United States, or, to be exact, \$7,458,733 in 1903, came from the Netherlands, which, having obtained the uncut stones from South Africa by way of Great Britain, cut them and then export them to other countries. The vast majority come to the United States. It is estimated that there are over 7,000 expert diamond cutters required to supply the American demand. Our government is making an effort to get at the bottom of the trade in diamonds, so as to prevent the surreptitious importation of the stones into the United States, and thus protect the home diamond cutting industry. The government has had some success in this, as the imports of regular diamonds have increased from \$2,517,759 in 1898 to \$10,933,198 in 1903.—Wall Street Journal.

NOTES OF THE MINES.

The report emanates from Granite that a new lead has been uncovered in the Quebec mine, and that Manager W. C. Calder is on the ground investigating.

The Basche-Sage Hardware company this morning sent out a wagon load of steel, powder, fuse, and miscellaneous mining supplies to the Imperial mine.

Steady shipments of high grade copper ore continue from the Seven Devils district to the Sumpter smelter. Seven teams are hauling between the mines and Council, Idaho.

Lumber for another cabin at the Nine Stake Extension, on Little Cracker Creek, was sent out by General Manager Tony Mohr this morning, who has arranged from a steady winter's work.

Property belonging to the Weatherby-Bonanza Gold Mining company, at Weatherby, on Lower Burnt river, was sold yesterday by the sheriff to satisfy a \$5,000 judgment held by Marion A. Butler, of Portland.

A letter has been received from Charley Warren, written at San Antonio, Nevada, in which Mr. Warren states that the Kitchen expedition, which he accompanied, expected to enter Tonopah the following day. The halt was made at San Antonio on account of a sick horse, the first illness to be suffered during the long overland trip by either man or beast.

Attorney Chance, for the Alpine company, in the case wherein it is defendant and Ashby plaintiff, appeared before Judge Allen at 2 o'clock this afternoon and moved that the amended service be set aside, which motion was overruled. He then demurred to the complaint. The demurrer will be argued tomorrow afternoon. The cause of this action has several times been stated in these columns.



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