THE GOLD MINES OF BOLIVIA

What Some of Our American Prospectors and Capitalists are Doing in the Highlands of the Andes.

A Chat With an American Mining Engineer About Bolivian Gold—The Great Quartz Ledges of the Tipuani—Placer Mining and How It Is Done—What Some Hoosier Men Are Attempting on the Tipuani River—The Peruvian Gold Fields—What Is Being Done in the Caralaya District—The Wonderful Placers of Mount Ancoma—Some of the Difficulties Of Bolivian Miners—South America Not a Poor Man's Country.

Kingman, Ariz., by Frank G. Carpenter.

La Paz, Bolivia, June 28, 1898.—Bolivia and Peru are among the richest mineral regions of the world. Some of the most productive mines there have produced gold and silver for hundreds of years. But now outside capital is coming in and developing the country, and if what American mining engineers say is true, the time is not far off when the world will look to these countries for the bulk of its gold and silver. I went out yesterday to see a little mining property which is worth its weight in gold. It belongs to a member of the staff of the Herald, and it is a little gold mine which belongs to a member of a family of La Paz. The findings are in the Chuquisaca river, which runs into the Chuquisaca river, which runs into the Beni and then into the Madeira, which is a tributary of the Amazon. This river has been worked for gold several hundred feet deep in the side of the mountain, and above this La Paz is situated, and above the city is a high wall of gravel extends for miles, as it seems to me, from the city far down the river. It is in this gravel that the gold is found. A score of Indians were at work digging down the face with picks and shovels, and then wheeling the gravel in wheelbarrows and dumping it into troughs through which water ran. The troughs were from half a mile to a mile in length, and the water was conducted to the troughs from the river by ditches. The men were working in the troughs with long hoes or rakes, and that they would take the heavier parts of gravel and pull it in the water carried the dirt on down the river. There was no quicksand to work and the workers depended entirely on the weight of the gold to separate it from the gravel as they worked it. Gold is found in this gravel in all sizes, from fine dust up to nuggets of a pound in weight. The gold is found in the bottom of the troughs, and the heavier parts of gravel and gold