

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 7.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, AUGUST 1, 1896.

VOL. LIIL

Written for this Paper.

## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CYANIDE MILL

(Copyrighted 1896 by Frank G. Carpenter.)

DENVER, July 21st, 1896.



BEGIN with this letter a series describing the revolution which is going on in the mining regions of the West. During the past three months I have

traveled several thousand miles in the Rocky Mountains. They are alive with prospectors. It is estimated that 2,000 men are climbing about the hills and canons of California, Arizona and Nevada. There are hundreds of prospectors going carefully over the old mining regions of Colorado, and in Utah is now being developed a new gold region, which Salt Lake City men claim will produce more than enough to pay off the national debt. The gold now being mined at Cripple Creek is enormous in quantity, and there are other camps in Colorado which are turning out fortunes in gold-bearing rock. The new processes of gold reduction have changed almost entirely the character of gold mining and within the next few years the whole world will be re-prospectured for gold.

It is hard to realize that gold is one of the most common of all metals, but this is a fact. Gold is to be found in nearly every part of the earth, but hitherto the cost of reduction has been so great and the quantity of gold so small that in only a few places could it be mined at a profit. Gold exists in the waters of the sea, and the chemist who can invent a method of getting the gold out of the great Salt Lake will have a fortune. The Andes are full of gold. Central America has hundreds of abandoned mines. The old dumps or waste of the mines which the Spaniards worked in Mexico will now be put through the new processes for getting out the gold, and the result will be fortunes. There is a vast quantity of low-grade gold in the eastern part of the United States. From Nova Scotia to Georgia runs a gold streak, which has at different points paid for mining. Nuggets have been recently found in Nova Scotia worth \$200, and last year a nugget was found in Crawford County, N. C., which weighed eight pounds five ounces. All of our gold up until 1827 came from North Carolina, and there have long been gold mines in different parts of Georgia. There is a white

quartz near Washington, D. C., which will, it is said, pay \$16 a ton, and within the past year gold mines have been worked in a small way near the national capital. There is a gold vein in New Hampshire, which, in 1817, yielded \$50,000, and gold has been mined on Manhattan Island which averaged \$4.00 a ton. There is gold in Ohio and our mountains of the West have, it is believed, hundreds of undiscovered golden veins. In the region between the Rockies and the Pacific so far has been produced ninety nine per cent of all the gold of the United States, and hitherto many mines have been discovered and abandoned, which can now be worked by the new processes at a profit. There are valuable gold mines in the State of Washington, and the sands of the Pacific Ocean, from Puget Sound to Aleutian Islands, contain gold dust, and in some places they are now being panned by miners. There is probably a large amount of gold in British Columbia, the mountains of which have not been prospected. The Treadwell mine of Alaska has an output of more than \$5,000,000 worth of gold. This gold is of such a low grade that some years ago no one would have thought of trying to mine it. Its average is between \$2 50 and \$3.00 per ton, and still at these low figures it gives the proprietors 100 per cent profit. The gold of the Dakotas is of a low grade, and there are hundreds upon hundreds of square miles in Colorado which contain low grade ore. Wagon loads of rock picked up off the grazing fields about Cripple Creek have assayed \$22 per ton, and old mines which have been abandoned are by the new processes now being worked at a profit.

You can never tell where gold is until you find it says the old miners, and the prospecting which is now being done will develop, in all probability, mines containing the richest of ore, as well as low grade mines. Take the Golden Fleece mine, which now produces from twenty to thirty thousand dollars a month, and has been doing so for four or five years. It was located about twenty years ago, worked for a time and abandoned. It was then sold. The buyers worked it and gave it up as a failure. Then a man named Davis who understood the peculiar ores of the Golden Fleece, took an option on the property for \$15,000. He applied new processes to the reduction of his ores, and the first car load netted him the amount of the bond. On the strength of that car load he was offered such a price for the property that he could have sold out and made \$75,000 on the deal. He went on mining and soon struck a big vein. This mine has now 600,000 shares, and I am told that it has

already paid about \$500,000 in dividends.

The reduction of the low-grade ores will alone revolutionize the gold product of the world. The increase is already enormous. The South African mines are to a large extent low grade. They produced \$40,000,000 worth of gold last year, and \$10,000,000 worth of this would have been lost had it not been for the new processes of getting out gold by the use of cyanide of potassium. These mines were opened first in 1887. Up to the first of last January they had produced about \$150,000,000 worth of gold, and Hamilton Smith, the great English mining engineer, estimates that there is more than a billion and a half dollars' worth of gold in the already known fields of South Africa yet to be mined. The Australian mines are turning out great quantities of gold, and in 1894 both Africa and Australia were ahead of us in gold production. It is only lately that we have gotten these new processes at work upon our ores, but last year we regained our place as the chief gold producing country of the world. In 1895 we led both Africa and Australia by more than \$10,000,000, our gold product last year amounting to \$50,000,000. Colorado alone had an increase in 1895 over its product of 1894 of \$8,000,000 and it stands today as the greatest gold state of the Union. It produced last year \$18,000,000 worth of gold, or three millions more than California, and Colorado men tell me that they expect to get at least \$25,000,000 worth of gold out of the mountains the present year. There will be an enormous increase in the gold product of Utah this year, and California, which produced \$15,000,000 worth of gold in 1895, will produce more in 1896. Altogether in 1895 the world produced nearly \$200,000,000 worth of gold. This is a greater amount than has ever been mined in any one year. It is equal to the entire product of any twenty years up to 1840, and if the present ratio of increase goes on we shall in 1900 have an annual product of \$320,000,000, and the world's stock will, between this time and that, have been increased by more than \$2,000,000,000. These figures are inconceivable, but they are founded on fact, and they represent a revolution brought about by a combination of new discoveries in natural resources and new inventions as applied to mining, which will revolutionize the financial system of the world.

But let me tell you something of these cheap methods which have been lately invented for getting out gold. You have all heard of placer mining, or the washing of gold grain, nuggets or dust out of the beds of rivers, and the sides of mountains. The first mining done was