

THE WORLD'S GOLD IN 1897.

A Chat With the Director of the Mint About the Gold Regions of the World and Their Enormous Output.

The Product This Year Bigger Than Ever—It Will Exceed \$200,000,000—The New Shores of California—The Hydraulic Companies and What They Are Doing—Something About the Alaskan Mines and Gold of the Yukon—The Cripple Creek District—What is Being Done in Utah and South Dakota—American Mining Engineers—How the English Buy Mines and Some Advice For Young Men at Athens.

Copyright, 1897, by Frank D. Carpenter, Moral Commissioner of the NEWS. WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7th, 1897.

THE Gold Mining Convention Denver this week will give the public some idea of the enormous amount of the yellow metal which is now being dragged from the mountains of the West. The increase is going on steadily. There was never anything like it before, and the prospects are that it will be even greater in the future. We are having a greater output of gold, not only from the United States, but from all other gold regions.

I got this information from the director of the mint, and it is based upon his reports which come in regularly from all parts of the world. The director of the mint has confidential relations with the mining establishments and reduction works of the United States, by which they send him statements as to the amounts of gold and silver which they receive. They report where the metals come and where they go. He gets also reports from the officers of the mint in different parts of the United States, and he receives reports monthly from the gold regions of Africa, Australia, Russia, South America and elsewhere. The reports given by the mining establishments of gold actually melted up and sent into circulation. They are not very estimates of prospectors or miners, but are made up of figures as reliable as any you will find in the treasury department. It is through such reports that the director of the mint knows in a month to month just how the amount of the world's gold is rising, or falling, sitting in his office at the treasury department, he can watch this gold river and its branches as it flows throughout the world and can estimate its size and the directions toward which it is going.

"What part of the United States do you refer to?"

"It produces more than any other state in the Union. It is steadily increasing its production, and will reach, something like \$15,000,000 worth of gold this year. The people there have reduced mining to a science. They can, I am told, get the precious metals out cheaper than the miners of any other part of the world. They do even better than the operators of the famous Trendwell mine of Alaska. Much of the gold costs them less than fifty cents a ton. Large sums are invested in mining operations, and the work is done on such a big scale that the cost is cut down to the minimum."

"From what part of California do we now get the most gold?"

"The most of it comes from the Mother Lode," replied the director of the mint. "This has always been the chief mining region of California. It runs from north to south through the state, in the mountains back from the sea coast. There are a number of different regions along this lode, which are worked at a great profit and in all sorts of ways. Hydraulic mining is being resumed. For a time the laws were against this, because the debris made by washing down the mountain side was carried by the river over the wheat fields, destroying them. Then a commission was taken care of that the wheat fields were saved. There are several hundred of hydraulic mines now being worked."

"THE NEW MINING PROCESS."

"How about the new process of mining?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Preston. "There are cyanide mills and chlorination works all over California. Many of the old claims are being worked over, and old mines are being reopened. A number of the best of the gold mines were abandoned years ago on a count of losing the vein at a certain depth. It was then thought that it did not extend very deep into the earth, and when the miners had gone down 100 or 200 feet and lost the vein, it was believed that the end of the gold had come, and that the vein had petered out. It is found, however, that by going down a little further the vein may be often rediscovered and sometimes that it will be richer than ever. This was the case with the famous Crown Point mine. This mine was very rich. It had yielded fortunes, but the vein was thought to have played out. A new company took hold of it not long ago. They made the shaft a few feet farther and another big fortune was opened to view. This is also the case with the Kennedy mine and others."

"CURIOUS PLACES FOR GOLD."

"Another theory that has been exploded," continued Mr. Preston, "is that gold can only be found in one or two kinds of rock. They now find gold in everything. It occurs in sandstone, shale, slate and clay. It is often found in gravel, and you can see the statements recently published about the vast amount of the yellow metal which is in solution in the waters of the sea. There is a mine in Australia who has been experimenting upon this for the last two years. I believe he estimates that there is about a grain of gold in a ton of water, or between one and two hundred tons of gold in a cubic mile. One of his estimates is that if all the water could be gotten out of the ocean we would have more than a hundred billion tons of gold. This is a little good to the world, as no means has yet been discovered of getting the gold out. The new processes, however, are steadily increasing the possible supply from the regular sources. There is a vast deal of low grade gold in the south. There is gold within an hour's ride by rail from where we are sitting, which by improved methods may some day be profitably mined."

"THE GOLD OF ALASKA."

"How about the Alaskan gold, Mr. Preston? I understand that there will be a heavy yield from there this year."

"There will be some," replied the director of the mint, but not of very great amount. We shall probably have several million dollars' worth of gold from different mines of that territory. The Trendwell mine, in southern Alaska, is sure to give us a big jump of gold. This mine is one of the best in the world. It is a very rich vein on the edge of the sea, containing low grade ore. The ore will not run over three dollars a ton, but gold is so close to the water and so easily mined that it costs only a dollar and a quarter a ton to get it out. The mine has already paid five or six million dollars, and it is paid five or six million dollars, and it is worth a large fortune. It is operated, I am told, after the very best and most economical methods. It has one of the largest stamp mills in the world. It is lit up by electricity, and something like a million dollars have been spent on the works connected with it."

"THE GOLD OF THE YUKON."

"What is being done in the Yukon district?"

"My information," said the director of the mint, "is that the people have been panning into the Yukon region for some time, both on sledges and in boats. The mining season there is just beginning, for the men can work only in the summer. So far the only mining done on the Yukon is placer mining. The gold has to be washed out of the river bed and the land along the streams. The soil is richer in the greater part of the year and the only time that gold panning can be done is in the last months of the summer. In the winter the men dig up the frozen earth and lay it in piles near the banks of the river, so that they can work the more quickly when the summer comes. It is very hard work, but you know men will do anything to get gold."

"You say, Mr. Preston, that this is all placer mining?"

"Yes," replied the director of the mint. "This is a great mistake," said the director. "Gold is being washed out in almost all of the gold districts. There are many placer mines in the off shore lands of Alaska. They are washing out gold all along the Northern Pacific coast. There are placer mines at Cripple Creek, Colo.; you can find the miners washing out gold near Leadville, and the greater part of the gold which we get from Siberia is produced in this way. Much of the Russian gold is made up of dust and nuggets, washed out of the dirt and sand."

"SOUTH DAKOTA."

"Yes, indeed, there is," replied the director of the mint. "At least we get a lot from there every year. It comes from both the placer mines and the quartz mines. Some of the biggest stamp mills in the world are in South Dakota. The Homestead Mining company has a six hundred-ton press which pounds away day and night, year in and year out. This mine is one of the most valuable of the world, and will one day be a low grade. I understand that the Kohler claim has been tried to buy it since and failed, but that the company which owns it will not sell."

"SOMETHING ABOUT CRIPPLE CREEK AND LEADVILLE."

"How about the Colorado mines?"

"Colorado is now one of the richest mining states of the Union. It is making a steady increase. The Cripple Creek mine claims that they are turning out a million dollars' worth of gold every month. I believe they overstate their output, and I doubt whether they are producing more than \$500,000 monthly. This, however, is an enormous product from a new region. The big mines there seem to hold their own, and new ones are being discovered."

"THE AFRICAN GOLD FIELDS."

"How about the African mines, Mr. Preston? What are they doing this year?"

"There is a great increase going on in the output of South Africa. We get a lot from there every month, and the amount of the gold produced is steadily rising. It is expected to be believed that it will be no falling off in the African supply for years to come."

"SPEAKING OF EXPERTS, MR. PRESTON, WHERE DO THE BEST MINING ENGINEERS COME FROM?"

"The Americans lead the world today as mining experts and mining engineers," replied Mr. Preston. "You will find a large number of our mining engineers in South Africa. It was an American who first announced what is now believed to be the correct theory as to the South African gold horizon. This man's name was Curtis. He was the son of George Dickson Curtis, the discoverer of the Curtis claim, the gold reefs of the Transvaal were in the shape of an immense basin, which had been turned up as it were by the forces of nature. He said that he thought that gold would be found to exist down to a great depth. This has since been ascertained to be the fact. Some of our best information concerning the gold fields of South Africa comes from Mr. Hamilton Smith, the mining expert of the Rothschilds. Hamilton Smith is a Kentucky man, who has acquired a high standing as a mining engineer. He estimates that we shall see the day when the Rand district will surpass the whole United States in its gold output, and that at no distant time the Rand district will produce a million dollars' worth of gold and upwards a year. Mr. Smith was sent by the Rothschilds to South Africa to report upon the gold there. He figures that the amount that the Rand district is now producing is about \$100,000,000. He has also been sent to report upon the

gold at Cripple Creek and other parts of the United States."

"How about the English. Do they own many of our gold mines?"

"Yes," replied the director of the mint. "There is a great deal of English capital invested in American gold regions. They have mines in every all parts of the west, and are on the lookout for more."

"ADVICE FOR YOUNG MEN."

"Would you advise a young man to go into mining, Mr. Preston?" I asked.

"Mining is like everything else," replied the director of the mint. "It requires capital and experience to succeed in it. The business grows more and more legitimate every year, and no man should think of putting money into the earth without first knowing that there is some probability of getting it out. If a young man has but little capital, he should not invest before he has learned something of mining. He should study the business and seek the advice of experts and be sure that the experts are honest. Some of the large companies never put money into mines without sending out their experts. Take the London Exploration Company, for instance. They paid not long ago \$500,000 for the 'Two Boys.' They had it tested for four months before they consented to let purchase. Such companies have a number of experts, and they never invest without the reports upon the property are very favorable. When they buy they usually pay according to the amount of gold in sight, expecting to make their money out of that which is yet to be discovered."

"When would you advise a young man to start if he wanted to go into mining?"

"I would not like to say," replied Director Preston. "All of the gold states of the world have good properties and good prospects. Arizona and California are as good gold fields as any. I would only say that the man who does not understand the business, or who is not prepared to stay in the gold regions long enough to learn it, had better keep his money and remain at home."

Frank D. Carpenter

Thousands Celebrate With thankfulness their restoration to health by the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Think of the vast army who have been cured by this medicine—Many women and children, who have suffered the consequences of impure blood, who have seen the victims of scurvy, erysipelas, dyspepsia, nervousness, sleeplessness. They have tried other medicines and have failed to obtain relief. They tried Hood's Sarsaparilla and it did them good. They persevered in its use and it accomplished permanent cures. Do you wonder that they praise and recommend it to you?

Richardson's Sarsaparilla Sifts the truth and purifies the blood; and cures RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, and other ailments.

MADSEN'S The Great Store for Bargains! Offer This and Next Week the Most Extraordinary Bargains in all kinds of Furniture, Carpets, Wall Paper and Household Goods.

We fear no one; our prices will stand comparison anywhere and everywhere. Read, Compare and Remember that MADSEN'S never have been, never are and never will be undersold by any one on earth. BUT VALUES ARE ALWAYS HERE. Once a Purchaser always a Customer. ....

Center Tables 92c

Center Tables \$1.69

Rocking Chairs \$1.05

Chairs, Solid, antique, cane seat, high back, worth \$1.50. Our Price during this Sale 93 1/2c

Dining Room Tables, 6 Feet Extension Tables, Solid Oak, well made, worth \$7.50. Our Price during this Sale \$4.35

Bedroom Sets, 3 Pieces, antique finish, large mirror, nicely carved, worth \$18.00. Our Price during this Sale \$10.35

Bedroom Sets, 3 Pieces, solid oak, large mirror, highly polished finish, worth \$25.00. Our Price during this Sale \$18.50

Wardrobes, Hard wood, well made, nicely carved, equal to any \$10.50 wardrobe in Salt Lake. Our Price during this Sale \$6.95

Iron Beds, White enameled, brass trimmings, all sizes, worth \$8.50. Our Price during this Sale \$4.85

Cupboards, Hard wood, glass fronts, nicely carved, never been sold under \$3.50 in Salt Lake. Our Price during this Sale \$6.85

Carpets, Velvet Carpets, worth \$1.00. Our Price during this Sale 75c

Velvet Carpets, worth \$1.50. Our Price during this Sale \$1.20

Ingrain Carpets, worth 35c. Our Price during this Sale 20c

Ingrain Carpets, worth 90c. Our Price during this Sale 65c

Here We Are! Remnants of Carpets, worth 35c, 70c, 85c, 90c, \$1.00. All go for Half Price during this Sale. See the Show Window.

8 1/2 Cents Double Roll.

5,000 Rolls of Wallpaper, beautiful designs. All go for 8 1/2c per double roll during this Sale.

8 1/2c Double Roll.

MADSEN'S FURNITURE STORE, 51-53-55 E. 1st South.