

"MOTHER LODE MOONSHINE."

As to this last resource of Yukon boomsters, the London Mining Journal speaks as follows: "Notwithstanding the denunciations of the professed mineralogist, it is the sad truth that the rule of three, as it is called, supplants the rule of thumb but very slowly. Men who have spent the greater part of their lives in actual work down the mine shaft are apt to grow supercilious over the scientific method, and to take short cuts to their conclusions. They are, moreover, to some extent given to superstition, and vie with the mariner in the strength of their beliefs in luck, occultism, and portents. Rather an amusing instance in point is the beautiful trustfulness with which the mining men in the great Northwest are looking forward to the discovery of the great storehouse of the world's riches—the Mother lode, whence have sprung all the secondary deposits which have been worked by the enterprising miner in past times. So strongly is this theory implanted in the American mind that in the California rush of 1849 the belief that the miners were at last on the trail of the great glittering serpent was loudly proclaimed; and a great part of the eagerness with which men from every part of the American continent have lately poured into the cold and cheerless Klondike region is attributed by some to a recrudescence of the hope that at the eleventh hour it has been unearthed, and will uncoil itself to the everlasting enrichment of the fortunate possessor. Like many another legendary faith, this belief in the universal Mother lode is bereft of all scientific sponsorship; but in so far as it sustains and stimulates the gold mining zeal, it serves a useful purpose."

THE GOLDEN CACHE.

Superintendent Rives again reports this week the discovery of exceptionally rich gold deposits in the new ledge at this mine. The MINING CRITIC hopes that the generally favorable forecast thus indicated, may be verified by future working results at the mine. The samples taken and tested were rich indeed, but were obviously specially good specimens, and cannot be taken as representative of the bulk of the ore, as were it otherwise the Golden Cache would be a veritable Golconda in miniature.

ONE-FOURTH OF THE WORLD'S GOLD YIELD

Last year Victoria, Australia, yielded 810,000 ounces, Queensland 794,000 ounces, and Western Australia 687,000 ounces of gold—together fully one-fourth of the world's gold production for the year as the output of three Australian colonies. New Zealand, South Australia, and Tasmania also in the aggregate yielded a further large amount of gold in 1897.

THE YUKON'S ADMINISTRATOR SPEAKS OUT.

Major Walsh, writing on Christmas Eve from the mouth of Big Salmon river, says that the food problem will have to be faced after the territory is filled up with the new population that will go in next spring. He calculates that river boats will not be able to land more than half the supplies necessary to sustain the estimated population next summer. Another part of his letter contains an important warning, of which the public should take notice—more especially the gullible British public, amongst whom company mongering sparks seem to be abundant, whilst honest and capable promoters are few. He says:

"I am informed that fifteen or twenty agents and brokers have come out from Dawson carrying with them, some say, hundreds—some say thousands—of certificates for entries for mining on all streams in the neighborhood and to the mountain tops, with the hope that they can be put on the market and be readily seized by the gullible public in the United States and Canada. So, too, doubtless, in England. They are trying to imitate the brokers of South Africa and Rossland. If this be true there is no question but it will be injurious to the country and to good properties that may be put on the market.

LE ROI SMELTER.

The Le Roi smelter at Northport was blown in on January 21st, and work started well. It is the intention of the Le Roi people to treat the entire output of the mine at the new plant. Mr. James Breen is the manager of the smelter, and Mr. H. C. Bellinger is superintendent. The plant consists of two water jacketed copper matte furnaces, 38x120 inches inside, with water jacketed fore hearths, two Connorsville blowers for supplying air to the furnaces; a 50-ton reverberator matte furnace; a Holtzoff-Wethey roasting furnace, 10x100 feet in size; a 150-horse power Reynolds Corliss condensing engine; two 80-horse power tubular boilers; an hydraulic platform elevator, and a complete ore sampling plant. The smelter is already treating an average of 160 tons a day with only one blast at work. Four hundred tons per diem will shortly be treated when the second blast is available. Meanwhile the Le Roi mine continues to make a steady daily output of some 200 tons of ore.

TEXADA'S NEW HOTEL.

Texada Island is now provided, at the instance of Mr. L. L. Palmer, who is largely interested in the island's mining development, with a well-equipped hostelry in the Hotel Texada, which will supply much-needed accommodation.