

**KLONDIKE GOLD.**

The quantity of gold that has come out of the Klondyke region since the first discoveries were made there in August, 1896, is a subject of speculation and of considerable guesswork. When one begins to calculate on the amount he is at once met with facts and conditions that render his work uncertain. Men come from the mines and go to the four corners of the earth carrying more or less dust and nuggets with them. Others go direct to the mint in San Francisco, and still others go to various points from which they send the gold to other mints by express.

Of the gold that has come from Alaska since July last all has passed through Seattle and San Francisco, but, as stated, there is no data at either place that will lead to a conclusion as to the total amount brought from the mines.

As a possible index to the total product of the Klondyke region, a representative of the Times made a circuit of Seattle and ascertained that since the arrival of the Portland, early in July, there has been shipped by the banks and jewellers of Seattle about \$750,000 of placer gold. Information given by the express companies pretty accurately confirms this statement. In addition to this anyone can estimate for himself how much was carried through Seattle by individual miners.

One banker told of a neighbor who returned with about \$4,000 worth of dust and who took it himself to the San Francisco mint. In time, of course, the actual gold product of the Yukon will find its way to the statistical reports of the mints, but for the present reliance must be had upon the calculations of probabilities. And it is safe to say that since July \$1,000,000 has passed through Seattle. But great as is the aggregate brought out, it is a mere bagatelle when compared with the quantities in store rooms at Dawson.—Ashcroft Mining Journal.

**ENCOURAGE PROSPECTING.**

Upon the vocation of the prospector the prosperity of the mining industry must primarily depend. It is a pursuit of large expectations and small rewards and is maintained chiefly by the inactivity of the organ of hope that constantly enlivens the imagination of the prospector with visionary bonanzas of high degree. In proportion to their numbers, few professional prospectors ever realize their hopes and attain wealth, although dozens of paying properties may have been discovered by them. To the man who is proud of his attainments the discovery of a vein that subsequently, and in other hands, becomes a paying mine brings a great deal of satisfaction. His abilities are demonstrated, even if he realizes small profit from the investment of time and effort.

Any law that will tend to discourage prospecting for minerals by destroying the vocation of the pros-

pector will seriously cripple the mining industry. The legislation proposed by the Denver committee will have no other effect. It proposes to load down the prospector with financial obligations, in order to hold the claims discovered, that will drive him out of the field. The mining industry as such can be encouraged in no better way than to lighten the burdens of its pioneers. Not only the advance guard discovering new districts, but the small investors who follow in their footsteps, should receive all the encouragement that can be afforded by liberal legislation. To these two classes every mining district owes a debt of gratitude, for they make possible the advent of capital and the development of great mining enterprises.—Western Mining World.

**GOLDEN AND THE KICKING HORSE.**

A channel about a mile long has now been cut up the Kicking Horse through the solid ice, and this, it is expected, will in a short time give relief to the pent-up waters and avert all danger of Golden being flooded. The water is now running with considerable rapidity, and men are busy keeping this channel clear and removing slush from the bottom, so that the flow of water may be increased. As yet there is not much change. The rivulets still continue to run in front of the Kootenay House, and instead of being diminished, have increased. The water is now in several of the cellars of the houses in the old town. Over in the new town the new river which came into existence and appeared last week has now dwindled down into a rivulet, its headwaters having been diverted into the ice-cut channel, and all danger to Mr. Parson's store is for the present over. A thaw has been in existence for the last two days, and, if it continues, there is the serious danger of a big flood coming.—East Kootenay Miner.

**THE BROMINE PROCESS OF EXTRACTION.**

The Mining and Scientific Press says: "Considerable is being claimed at present for the bromine process of extraction, in contrast or competition with the cyanide and chlorination process, and recent experiments in Colorado go far towards establishing the correctness of those claims so far as high percentage of extraction is concerned. But, so far, the increased expense of the process militates against its use. That calcined gold ore treated with bromide and caustic soda will give up a very high percentage of its assay value is an undoubted fact, but the present high price of bromide bars any claim to economy in the process, and it is the most economic method where suited to the ore that is in special demand. Mr. Cassell, the manager, says the process 'in a majority of cases is bound to supersede all others,' which under the circumstances is a most sanguine view."—Golden Era.