

Many of these gravels have been tested and are known to be very rich, much of the gold being very coarse, nuggets as much as 60 ounces in weight having been obtained, while those having a value of ten to one hundred dollars are not uncommon. Almost every stream tributary to the Chaudiere above St. Joseph is known to contain gold, while veins holding gold have also been discovered in this district. Although a very considerable amount of gold has been taken out of this gold field, several attempts to work these deposits on an extensive scale have terminated disastrously, apparently owing to bad management and to the adoption of unsuitable methods; this has given the district a somewhat unenviable reputation, while legal complications have assisted toward the same end. It is believed, however, that a new era is about to be inaugurated for the district, as Mr. Hardman, who has been so successful in opening up the Nova Scotian gold deposits, has now commenced work here. Westward in Ontario, gold is known to occur in the Madoc region as well as at Wahnapiatae, and at many other points in the country to the north of Lake Huron, while much attention is now being directed to the Lake of the Woods district and the adjacent territory in Ontario, along the American border line. This district has for the past three years, 1892-93-94, produced annually between \$30,000 and \$40,000 worth of gold, a beginning which promises to grow to larger proportions through the vigorous prospecting now being carried on. Gold is also found in the sands of the Saskatchewan and other rivers of the North-west Territory, which annually afford a considerable amount of very fine gold dust. About \$10,000 worth of gold is annually washed out of these sands, although last year, the water being exceptionally low, some \$30,000 worth was obtained. The gold of Nova Scotia occurs in bedded quartz veins, enclosed in rocks of Cambrian age, the gold-bearing series occupying from one-fifth to one-third of the whole area of the province. The actual area, however, from which gold has thus far been obtained is less than 40 square miles, situated in the south eastern part of the province, and this area has up to the present time yielded in round numbers \$11,500,000 of gold. Some of these Nova Scotian gold mines are now equipped with plant which for effectiveness and economy will stand comparison with that of any of the gold-producing countries in the world.

Gold was discovered in Nova Scotia in 1860, but as an industry gold mining may be said to date from 1862. Since that time there has been a regular annual yield, varying in round numbers from 10,000 to 27,000 ounces of gold, having a value of \$19.50 an ounce.

Unlike that of Nova Scotia, the gold of British Columbia has hitherto been obtained almost exclusively from alluvial deposits—that is, from the sands and gravels of river valleys, either the present river valleys or the valleys of ancient streams long since dried up. Such gold deposits are always derived from auriferous veins along the course of the river, but the gold districts in British Columbia being remote, thus making the transportation of machinery difficult and expensive, the gold is more easily worked in the alluvial deposits, which have therefore furnished the chief supplies. Attention is now being also directed to the rich quartz lodes which occur in many localities, and an era of quartz mining will probably before long be inaugurated.

Gold was first discovered in British Columbia in 1851, but was not worked until 1857, when workable

places were found on the Thompson River. In the following year it is estimated that within three months over 20,000 people arrived at the remote trading post which then stood upon the present site of the city of Victoria, while many more made their way overland to the new gold fields. The Fraser and Thompson Rivers were at first the objective points.

The gold found in the lower reaches of the Fraser River was what is known to miners as fine gold, or gold in very small scales or dust; further up coarser gold was obtained, and the miners consequently pushed up till the Cariboo country, some 400 miles from the sea, was reached, and here the richest deposits of alluvial gold, in fact some of the richest placer deposits ever discovered, were found. These for a number of years yielded very large returns. These placers of the Cariboo district are now being worked by means of a very extensive hydraulic plant recently erected, and large returns are being secured. Many other districts in British Columbia also afford gold. Some of these lie to the east of the Fraser, as the Big Bend, Similkameen, and Kootenay districts. In the latter district, the Trail Creek region especially is known to be rich in gold, and is being rapidly developed. Also in the Omimeca district in a latitude of 50° in the drainage basin of the Peace River, and still further north in latitude 58°, is the Cassiar district, first found to be auriferous in 1872. "This," says Dr. Dawson, "is the most northerly mining region in British Columbia proper, but beyond the 60° parallel forming the northern boundary of the province, alluvial gold mining has of recent years been developed in the Yukon district, embracing the numerous upper tributaries of that great river and extending to the border of the United States territory of Alaska." British Columbia has up to the present time yielded gold to the value of about \$50,000,000. The greatest output was reached in 1863, when \$3,913,563 was produced; since that time, on account of the working out of the most easily accessible placers, the output has gradually fallen off, till in 1893 the production fell below that of Nova Scotia.

There are, however, still immense gold deposits in British Columbia, some of them practically untouched as yet; these, however, being less easy of access, require more capital to work them. This is now coming in, and will undoubtedly continue to flow into the Province during the years to come, causing British Columbia before long to take its place among the more important gold-producing countries of the world.

The production of gold in the Dominion, as a whole, will be seen in the accompanying table. The following figures show the quantity of gold produced last year by the three countries which contribute most largely to the world's gold supply, and may be of interest in this connection. They show that nearly half the gold mined was produced in the British Empire; if we include within its bounds that portion of Africa from which gold is obtained, and which either lies in British territory, or is principally worked by British capital. If to this amount we add the output of the United States, we find that about 70 per cent. of the gold mined last year was produced by English-speaking peoples.

THE WORLD'S GOLD PRODUCTION IN 1895.

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| Total gold production of world | \$203,120,590 |
| United States of America | 44,870,998 |
| Africa | 44,750,000 |
| Australia | 44,000,000 |
| British Empire (including Africa) | 97,648,000 |