

UNITED STATES NOTES.

During the year 1895 about 1,250,000 barrels of oil were produced in California. Of this amount, very nearly 1,000,000 barrels were produced in Los Angeles county, and something less than 250,000 in Ventura county. It is probable that the yield for 1896 will not fall far short of this amount.

Nickel production in the United States in 1896, entirely from Canadian ores and matte, reached a total of 3,697,039 pounds—2,678,661 pounds in 1895. Of the production in 1896, metallic nickel amounted to 1,600,049 pounds, the remaining 2,096,890 pounds being in the form of oxide and sulphide.

The discovery of coal in a number of districts in Nevada give promise of a new industry for that State. The Nevada Central Railway Company has put eight men at work on a coal mine near Crum canyon, near Battle mountain, and it is said that the prospects are favorable for the development of extensive coal beds.

A crisis in the great strike in Leadville, has at last been reached that brings a calamity that will affect both the strikers and the mine owners. The pumps that drain the mines on Carbonate hill have been pulled out and within a short time most of them will be flooded. Even if the strike should be settled now, it would be a long time before work could be resumed.

A bill has been introduced in the California Legislature by Senator Mahoney dealing with corporations. It provides that no assessment shall be levied by the trustees of a corporation without the concurrence of a majority of the shareholders and after a sworn statement of the officers as to the condition of the corporation and further that the owners of stock sold for assessment shall have the right to redeem within six months.

The Calumet and Hecla Copper mine on Lake Superior exceeds in profitability any gold or silver mine in America. It is capitalized at \$2,500,000, and at the end of 1896 it had paid in dividends \$46,500,000. This company announces the payment of a dividend of \$1,500,000 on the 10th of the present month, and the directors state that they have sufficient ore in sight to promise that the mine will pay out \$4,000,000 in dividends during 1897.

According to a dispatch from Washington, Director Walcott of the United States Geological Survey has published a report upon the gold fields along the Alaskan coast. An expedition sent out last summer traversed the valley of the Yukon from the British boundary on the east to the mouth of the river on the west. All of the well-known placer deposits were examined, and the origin of the gold in them was traced to the quartz veins along the headwaters of the various streams entering the Yukon. Sufficient data were secured to establish the presence of a gold belt 300 miles in length in Alaska, which enters Alaska near the branch of Forty Mile creek and extends westward across the Yukon valley at The Ramparts. Its further extent is unknown. It is the opinion of the geologist in charge of the expedition that it is entirely practicable to prosecute quartz mining throughout the year in this region. He also discovered along the river acres of rocks containing hard and bituminous coal. The director thinks in view of these facts that a reconnaissance report should be made of the gold and coal areas in order to secure an intelligent conception of the resources of the interior of

Alaska, and for this purpose asks an immediate appropriation of \$25,000.

The Colorado Output for 1896.

Based upon the statement received from smelters and mints, after deducting the value of mattes sold by one smelter to another, to avoid duplications, the value of Colorado's precious metal mines during the year 1896, is estimated as follows: Gold, \$15,168,408; silver, \$15,574,794; copper, \$831,374; lead, \$3,079,947; total, \$34,654,526.

From this estimate is omitted any calculation of the value of gold shipped to private refineries or manufactories, because, with the exception of a small amount sold to manufacturers, most of the gold is sent by others into the mints, and it appears in their reports.

These figures show that the gold product is much less than was expected, and will prove a disappointment. The gold product may be too low, owing to there having probably been some shipments to manufacturers or private refiners, or to banks which have retained the gold in their vaults, of which we have no account. Anyone else can guess at their amount as well as we can, and we prefer to let those who are so inclined do the guessing.—*Denver Ores and Metals.*

LUCK IN MINING.

"ONE man cannot see as far into the ground as another," said John Pritchard of Aspen recently, "and there isn't a little bit of truth in the saying that he can when applied to mining operations. Thousands of instances might be brought forward to prove my position, and I learned my lesson very early in my mining career. The Tom Boy story in an illustration of this. Everybody thought J. Ernest Waters was wild to spend much money on it, and yet it is to-day being negotiated for \$2,500,000, after paying more than \$500,000 in dividends in less than two years.

"I was down in the San Juan country in 1881, and had a claim over on Sultan mountain, which I called the Jessie. It was a promising crevice, and I worked at it faithfully until I had expended nearly \$500, mainly for grub and powder, living alone in my cabin, and frequently working fifteen hours a day. Then I sent home, and father sent me \$300 more, which I used up. By that time I had been working nearly two years, and had driven my tunnel in about 200 feet, every inch of it with my own hands. Then I became discouraged, as I knew father had a mortgage on the old place, and couldn't afford to help me any more. I got credit for \$100, and kept at work driving the tunnel fifty feet further, and then I felt that I was at the end of my rope.

"One day, as I was gathering up my tools to quit, a nicely-dressed man sauntered up to the tunnel and began to look around. He asked to see the tunnel, which was mostly in solid rock, without timbering, and after he had closely examined both walls, asked me if I wanted to sell. I feigned indifference, and after calculating 250 feet of tunnelling, at \$10 a foot, answered that I might sell if I got my price. 'Well, what's your price?' he asked. 'Twenty-five hundred dollars,' I replied, with my heart in my mouth. 'Come down to town and get your money,' was the answer, and that night I slept with \$2,500 under my pillow, in clean sheets for the first time in two years. Next morning the purchaser asked me to help him out in a couple of shots, and, of course, I agreed.

When we got to the tunnel, he examined the wall, and selected a point about 100 feet from the mouth. Let's drill a couple of holes here,' he said. The minute he laid hold of the sledge I saw he was a miner, and in a short time we had two beautiful holes in the rock. When the shots went off I could hardly restrain myself from rushing into the tunnel at once, and when the smoke cleared away I was the first on the spot. And there lay a body of ore exposed which was afterward found to be three feet thick, and ran over \$100 to the ton. I had left the vein, and the superior knowledge of my purchaser had enabled him to detect the point of departure.

"I stayed around there a week, by which time he had taken out enough to pay for the cost of the mine, and then I went home and paid off the mortgage on the farm, and I've got the farm yet, though I am still mining. More than \$30,000 was taken out of that hole, and then the vein was lost, and has never been found since."

THE DEEPEST BORE-HOLE.

THE deepest bore-hole in the world, says Mr. C. Zundel, in the late communication to the Industrial Society of Mulhouse, is one of 6,571 feet below the surface of the soil, made at Paruschowitz, near Rybrick, Upper Silesia. The previous record for depth was the hole drilled some years ago at Schladerbach, near Leipsig. The latter bore-hole was made in a search for coal measures, and 83 separate seams, some of considerable thickness, were penetrated. The hole was 12 inches in diameter at the beginning, and this was lined with a tube about 0.4 inch thick; at a depth of 230 feet the bore was reduced to 8 1/4 inches in diameter, and thus continued for 351 feet. At this point the blue marl encountered became so compact that the diamond drill had to be used, and, under the action of the water, the marl swelled to such a degree that the diameter of the pipe had to be again reduced. The greatest difficulty encountered was the great weight of the boring rods, as the depth increased. Though steel was used, at a depth of 6,560 feet the total weight of the tools reached 30,155 pounds. Under this weight, ruptures of the rods were frequent, and an accident of this nature finally stopped the work; about 4,500 feet of rods fell to the bottom, and, being jammed under a part of the tubing, it was impossible to withdraw it. The diameter of the well at the bottom was 2 3/4 inches. Temperature observations made showed 12° C., at the surface, and at the depth of 6,571 feet, the temperature reached 69.3° C., or 157° F. This is equivalent to an average augmentation of heat of 1° C. for every 34.14 metres of depth, or 1° F. for every 63 feet.

The boring at Paruschowitz was commenced on March 26, 1892, and it reached its maximum depth on May 17, 1893, or in 399 working days. The total cost was \$18,800, or about \$2.86 per lineal foot.

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