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A Model Mining Company's Report.

As we referred in our last issue to the need of more systematic and detailed reports of the operations of mining companies it may be in order to call attention to the statement recently issued by the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company, which is nearly a model of what such a report should be. It gives a full account of all ore mined and all development work done, showing the quantities of ore available, points which are further elucidated by maps of the mine constituting a part of the report itself. This is certainly giving the stockholders every possible opportunity of knowing the actual condition of the mine. There is no opportunity of concealing facts by "glittering generalities" when such a clean breast is made of the status of affairs. The financial situation is presented in a lucid table, as follows, the quantity of ore mined and milled being 557,960 tons:—

	Total.	Per Ton.
Bullion sold	\$1,153,368	\$2.0671
Store and miscel. profits	34,696	0.0622
Total receipts	\$1,188,064	\$2.1293
Mining ore	\$278,194	\$0.4986
Milling and concentrating	110,903	0.1988
Sulphuret expense	79,385	0.1423
Bullion charges	7,022	0.0126
Office and legal expenses	11,014	0.0197
Totals	\$486,517	\$0.8720
Less credit, general expenses	2,451	0.0044
Balance	\$484,067	\$0.8676
New construction	30,036	0.0538
Total costs	\$514,103	\$0.9214
Net working profit	\$673,961	\$1.2079

Full details of duty of the mills, extent and kinds of repair, maintenance, etc., are also furnished from which we select a few items. Taking one of the mills containing 240 stamps, operated 312.4 days of 24 hours each, the number of shoes worn out was 500, the number of dies worn out 470, stems broken and replaced 150, new cams put in 10, new cam shafts 6, and mortars broken 7. The quantity of ore crushed was 225,722 tons, averaging 3.01 tons per stamp per diem of 24 hours.

The wages paid are fair, and might even be considered moderately high. Board and lodging are furnished by the company in addition to the money wage paid. The prices of labor were: machine drillers, \$2.50 per day in summer and \$3.00 in winter; machine helpers, \$2.25; mine laborers, \$2.00; amalgamators, \$90 per month; feeders, \$70; banner men, \$65 to \$100; machinists and helpers, \$2 to \$6 per day;

blacksmiths, \$4; drill-sharpeners, \$3.50; blacksmiths' helpers, \$2. The complaint comes from Alaska, as it has from Canada, and from many parts of the United States, that labor was scarce, in spite of good wages. This is probably due to the unusual activity in prospecting, which for two seasons past has drawn off a large number of experienced operators, although in part the cause may be found in the increase in the number of working mines, creating a demand for help in excess of the supply.

Without abstracting that portion of the report dealing with exploratory work, which is given in great detail, we may point out that the ore reserves between the 220 ft. level and the 440 ft. level figure up in round numbers 4,000,000 tons. This has all been fully developed by drifts and crosscuts, and carefully sampled. It is management of this sort that establishes confidence in mining, and removes the reproach so often cast upon mining operations that they constitute a species of gambling—which they certainly do not except when the public insists upon making them such.

The Fuel Question.

In a recent address by Mr. F. G. Meachem, President of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Institute of Mining Engineers, which has attracted wide attention, he said: "But for the use of coal Great Britain would not be as it is, and civilization would never have spread, even if it had reached a high state in one particular place. The greatness of most nations depends upon the development of industries and the use of some metal which is suitable for many purposes. This was an accomplished fact for the first time in the world's history when iron was smelted from its ores by the use of coal, securing a long epoch of industrial prosperity and an increase of power and intelligence, wealth and influence." He also pointed out that except for cheap fuel, such as coal had become, there could be no locomotives, no steamships, no expansion of industry. The situation in England with reference to its coal supply is justly regarded as serious. It is recognized that both in her exports of coal and of manufactured iron, in which latter it is in a certain sense the coal which is being shipped out of the country, she has been lavishly drawing upon her principal, and as this capital is an exhaustible quantity she will in time be reduced to a condition of industrial enfeeblement. With Great Britain the question is one of maintaining her power in the commercial world, and to this end she looks with no disfavor upon the growing foreign coal trade of the United States. It is seen to be wiser for England to allow others to supply the world with this commodity