

MINING IN COLORADO.

We are permitted to publish the following extracts from a letter received this winter by a Toronto gentleman from his son in the Colorado mining regions:

Cripple Creek, Colorado, has made great strides since I was here in 1892. Then there were five thousand people, now there are over thirty-five thousand; then there were doubts expressed on all sides as to the permanency of the mines; now they are an assured fact, shipping nearly a million dollars per month.

The town is beginning to boom, and a stranger arriving has hard work to get a bed. They are selling chairs in saloons, and every available space in the hotels is taken up with cots. Town lots are jumping up in price every day, and there has been a steady increase in the price of mining stocks, though they are not quoted above their legitimate value, as are the South African stocks.

The veins are small, but the ore is very high grade, running in value from forty to ten thousand dollars per ton. A great many companies are operating in the camp and selling shares, some of them good and some worthless.

A great many claims are worked under the leasing system, the owner giving a lease of a portion of his claim, and taking a royalty on all ore taken out. This is a good plan, as the owner gets his claim developed and the miner, as a rule, makes more than wages.

The Independence mine has a vein averaging twelve feet wide, and running \$300 per ton in gold. A million and a quarter of dollars worth has been taken out, and there are three millions in sight. The Portland, another famous mine, pays 2 per cent. per month on a capitalization of \$3,000,000. A single car load from one of these mines will run from \$40,000 to \$80,000; of course these are exceptional mines, and there are a dozen of them in the camp, while there are a hundred others that have large bodies of ore running from \$40 to \$100 per ton, which leaves a handsome profit after mining and treating charges are paid. Say it costs \$10 to mine a ton of ore, which is a very high estimate, and \$10 for treatment, you see it leaves a big margin, and the earnings would depend on the output.

The engineers and surveyors in the camp are all doing a big business, as most of the people who have located claims are now getting them patented and forming companies to work them. The land, in what is supposed to be the gold belt, is now nearly all taken up in claims 1,500 feet by 300 feet wide.

There is a lot of unoccupied ground outside these limits that has never been tested, and will in time probably prove valuable. The region where the mines are situated is about six miles square. The rock is of volcanic origin and overlies the granite; the veins pierce both formations and hold out well with depths.

English and eastern capital is beginning to come in, and with deep workings where there is now shallow surface development, I think this will prove a wonderful district.

The high grade ore is shipped to the smelters at Denver, paying a high freight rate and a smelting charge of ten dollars per ton. The low grade stuff is sent to the mills, and is treated for five to six dollars per ton.

There are ten mills in the district, and the most successful method of treatment is the cyanide process. The ore is fed to the stamps which crush it, and any free gold is amalgamated on the copper plates; the balance is treated on concentrating tables, which throws the worthless stuff away and retains the heavier and gold-bearing portions. These latter are charged into vats and treated with a solution of cyanide of potassium, which dissolves the gold. The solution is run off into another vat, and precipitated with zinc which brings down the gold; it is then treated in a small furnace and run into bars. This is the process so largely used in South Africa, and though the process is an old one, it is only within recent years that it has been a commercial success.

There are four chlorination mills. These crush the ore fine, and after roasting it to drive off the sulphur, it is charged into vats and treated with chlorine gas which dissolves the gold. This is then recovered by treating with iron sulphate. This method is very successful, and the mills are supplied with all the ores they can handle.

The business depression has about disappeared, and money is freer all over the state, though the price of silver still continues low.

It has been snowing all day, though I expect by to-morrow it will all have disappeared. The weather has been fine and mild up till to-day. They say they never have much deep snow, and that prospecting and mining goes on all the year round. It differs in this respect from Leadville and Aspen, for there the snow is so deep, that only the underground work can be gone on with.

CANADIAN NORTH-WESTERN IMMIGRATION CONVENTION.

A circular has been despatched all over Western Canada asking for delegates to an immigration convention in Winnipeg this month:—

"DEAR SIR,—Recognizing that the time and conditions are most propitious, it has been decided to call an immigration convention to meet in the city of Winnipeg, on Thursday and Friday, February 27th and 28th, 1896.

"Representation by delegates is being asked from all cities, towns and municipalities from Port Arthur to the Pacific coast, as well as from all commercial, railway and industrial interests of the Great West. It is considered desirable that every special interest and locality be represented, in order that all the advantages possessed by each may be presented to home seekers. It will be the duty of the convention, therefore, to form some plan which will most effectually advertise the Canadian North-West as a desirable field for settlement by all classes of immigrants, and secure at an early date the necessary increase to our population.

"By direction of the chairman and committee, I have the honor to request the appointment by yourself of delegates to the number of ten, if possible, to attend the convention.

"I need scarcely point out that each delegate is expected to come prepared to demonstrate the special advantage the interest he represents offers to those we are endeavoring to attract, and also, that unless each district is represented, our convention will to that extent be handicapped in the object to be accomplished.

"The railways and hotels are being asked for special rates for the accommodation of attending delegates, the nature of which I will advise you later.

"Please let me have the names and addresses of your delegates at the earliest possible moment.

"Yours truly,

"F. W. HEUBACH,

"Secretary.

"P. O. Box 1348, Winnipeg.

"Chairman, Thos. Gilroy; committee, J. H. Ashdown, A. J. Andrews, J. H. Brock, E. F. Hutchings."

SPONTANEOUS WOOL FIRES.

The experience of a fire adjuster with a wool risk is narrated in a late issue of the *Insurance Press*. On a lot of wool in a warehouse in Western Pennsylvania was an insurance of \$20,000. The wool took fire, nobody knew how or why, and the adjuster determined the amount of loss, which was paid.

"A short time after the settlement of this loss, the adjuster was again in the vicinity, at the Great Western Iron Works, about 20 miles distant, and he picked up a London newspaper, in which he found an article on English woolen mills, the storage of their supply of raw material (brought largely from Australia), and the growth of wool in that country and its shipment to England. The article stated that woolen mills, and all buildings in which wool was stored, should have good roofs, perfectly free from leaks, because spontaneous combustion would occur in wool stored in large quantities if permitted to get wet, and instances were given of fires from spontaneous combustion occurring in wool in Australia, on ship board between Sydney and London, and in mills in England caused by the wool getting wet.

"He immediately secured a conveyance and went to the place of his wool fire, and on entering the building he found a leak in the roof, where the shingle and slate parts of the roof were imperfectly joined, and immediately over the place where the wool had been on fire. For two weeks or more before the fire there had been rainy weather. Sufficient rain had fallen to cause the creeks and other streams to overflow their banks; hence the mystery of the fire was solved—spontaneous combustion, from getting wet."

WHOM TO THANK.

It is certain that things might have been very much worse than they are, and that they would have been far worse, but for the blessed institution of insurance. Take one year only. The amount paid in death claims and endowments during 1894 was £15,322,761. This amount was principally spent in tiding people over critical periods. It provided for thousands of widows, who but for it would now be in the very depths of poverty. Who must be thanked for this? The insurance agents. It has educated children, who without it would have had to face life when not equal to the fight, and would now be crowding the ranks of the incompetent, the struggling. Who must be thanked for this? The insurance agents. It has provided a cheerful fireside to the aged, and comforts for the sick and weakly. Who must be thanked? The insurance agents. It has furnished capital at a critical moment to men who but for it would have lost their hold, and by now have drifted down the stream. Again, Who must we thank? The insurance agents. The fifteen millions odd have done untold good, and it is mainly the doing of insurance agents. It is they who have prompted, nay, compelled, the public to foresight, to self-reliance, to providence. It is they who have exhorted, urged, reminded. It is they who have caused comfort where there would have been destitution.—*English paper.*

THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF OAK AND PINE.

Though it is generally assumed that oak is the wood capable of being put to the greatest variety of uses, it is known as a matter of fact that the pine is really the most used, on account of its great abundance; nevertheless, the timber of the oak combines in itself the essential elements of strength and durability, hardness and elasticity, in a degree which no other tree can boast—unrivalled as a material for ship building, also superior in architecture, cabinet-making, carving, mill work, cooperage, and innumerable other purposes, while the bark is of great value as furnishing tan and yielding a bitter extract in continual demand for medicinal purposes. But of uses for the pine, details would be well nigh endless. The timber is invaluable in house and ship carpentry; common turpentine is extracted from it in vast quantities, and immense supplies of tar, pitch, resin and lampblack; in the manufacture of lucifer matches, and, above all, paper pulp, thousands and tens of thousands of acres of pine forests are cut down every year, and, briefly, the timber of this tree, constituting as it does the chief material of English and American builders, may be said to be more used than all other kinds of wood put together.—*Boston Journal of Commerce.*

—What is claimed to be the largest single pane of glass in the country was received at Hartford, Conn., from Belgium a few days ago. It is 12½ feet high, 12½ feet wide, half an inch thick, and weighs 1,800 pounds.

—A wheelmen's accident insurance company has been organized in Massachusetts. It is the intention of the company to solicit business from only the vast army of bicycle riders throughout the United States, but it will insure them against all manner of accidents. This will enable the scorchers to get in their deadly work.

—In a letter to the Alameda (California) *Daily Argus*, Mr. John A. Britton discusses adversely the report of the electrician of that city purporting to give the cost of arc lighting from the city plant. He refers to the fact that machinery for which the city paid approximately \$20,000 was sold in seven years for \$350, thus giving a depreciation item of \$200 per month, while in addition during the same period there was paid out for the maintenance of the plant a sum equal to \$300 per month. Notwithstanding this the allowance given in the latest report for repairs and incidentals is only \$32 per month, and this includes wear and tear, which Mr. Britton thinks should be charged up at not less than \$250. He also criticises the system whereby part of the expense of running the lighting department is charged to other city departments, and showed that while \$618 had actually been paid out in wages on account of the electrical department, only \$432.50 was charged against it.