

GOLD PRODUCTION.

Though the year 1896 has probably seen more energy and capital expended in the development of gold mines than any previous year, the world's increase in the production of the metal will be less than might have been anticipated. The most generous estimates of the output place the probable increase for the year at about ten millions, and it is confessed that this figure is disappointing in view of the great expectations from the activity that was displayed when the year began. At that time it was confidently predicted that the mines of West Australia, which performed so creditably in 1895, would double their output for 1896, but the year appears to have been wasted in heavy stock gambling instead of mining for gold, and the result is that where an increase was expected a deficiency exists. Much the same condition exists in the Transvaal, the output of which will scarcely reach last year's figures. The disturbances with the Boer government in that country, augmented by the monopoly on giant powder and all explosives, that exist there under the protection of the government, have placed gold mining at a discount, and the best efforts of the stock manipulators to maintain a steady market have proved unavailing. Late information from the stock boards of Johannesburg show that favorite stocks are subject to fluctuation with a range as high as 50 shillings in a single day, on \$50 stocks, and there is a very evident desire on the part of holders to get their money back at once, even at a loss.

A portion of the anticipated increase will be furnished by the Russian mines in the Ural mountains and in Siberia, but the great bulk will be forthcoming from Western North America from Mexico to the Yukon river in Alaska. Unusual activity in gold mining has been the rule for the year in the coast and mountain states, and the search and development of gold fields has been so active that the production for 1897 will, in all probability, show a much greater increase than the year just closing.

Much speculation exists as to the location of the source of supply of the future, and efforts are being made to open up mines in the East Indies, in Zululand, and to place those of Australia in shape for extensive production. Some are looking forward to the tributaries of the Amazon in South America for a considerable proportion of the supply, but when all these are proven up to their best it is doubtful if they will show a more attractive field than the western part of North America. This region has unlimited possibilities for profitable gold mining. It extends from South Dakota to the shores of the Pacific and from tropical Mexico to where the glaciers of Alaska offer a permanent barrier against the encroachments of the prospector, and in the entire region there is not a square mile of mountain or plain, lake or river, that does not contain the yellow metal. Moreover, there is not a vein in the region mentioned, that is worked for the baser metals, in which gold is not found, and as the sulphide ores are reached and greater depth is attained, the percentage of gold increases. This is the region that will be the source of the world's gold supply in the future.—Inter-Mountain Mining Review.

A BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

There is a good chance for international complications between the United States and Canada over the troubles in the Yukon district, says the Alaska Searchlight of December 12.

In places, such as Forty-Mile creek, where the boundary is supposed to pass and where some of the creeks are in American and some in Canadian territory, it is impossible to determine those which belong to Canada and those which do not.

In reference to the charges concerning United States trespasses on British territory in the Yukon district and the washing of gold in Canadian waters, the secretary of state says that this state of affairs arises from the fact that the commissioners appointed to define the boundary line between the two countries have not yet submitted their reports to the government.

The district alleged to have been invaded is a Canadian town named Cudaby at Forty-Mile creek, and is the headquarters of the mounted police of the Yukon district. There is a United States postoffice there, but it is not recognized by the Canadian government.

The Canadians and the Americans in the district of the Yukon are anxiously waiting for official announcement which will define the Canadian territory from that of the United States.

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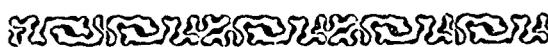
Assays from surface ore: \$24.35.
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7:00 a.m.	

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Time Table in Effect July 1, 1896.

No. 2, PASSENGER, Daily except Sunday—	
Leaves Rossland	7:00 a. m.
Arrives at Trail	7:45 a. m.
No. 6, PASSENGER, Sunday only—	
Leaves Rossland	8:30 a. m.
Arrives at Trail	9:15 a. m.
No. 4, PASSENGER, Daily—	
Leaves Rossland	3:00 p. m.
Arrives at Trail	4:00 p. m.
No. 3, PASSENGER, Daily except Sunday—	
Leaves Trail	10:30 a. m.
Arrives at Rossland	11:45 a. m.
No. 1, PASSENGER, Daily—	
Leaves Trail	5:00 p. m.
Arrives at Rossland	5:45 p. m.
No. 5, PASSENGER, Sunday only—	
Leaves Trail	11:00 a. m.
Arrives at Rossland	11:45 a. m.

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