

GOLD PRODUCTION—PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Figures for the production of gold in this country and for the world in 1896 show that a point has been reached in excess of any ever before attained, and while the increase over 1895 is not extraordinary, it is nevertheless a marked advance, though less than had been anticipated in many quarters, says the Engineering and Mining Journal. The force of the upward wave of gold production during the last few years has been so great as to produce a general anticipation that it would increase, and there will perhaps be some disappointment expressed over the result. This result is not extraordinary, however, and it may be of interest to trace the causes which have affected the production; considering them with especial reference to the probabilities of the future.

There are in the world four countries which are the leading gold producers, and that of the entire output of the yellow metal, usually from 80 to 85 per cent., comes from these four countries—the United States, Australasia, the Transvaal and Russia. An examination of the table given last week on page 7 will show that three of these four countries remained practically stationary in 1896, and that the United States alone showed a considerable advance. Of the minor producing countries Mexico is the only one which shows any considerable change, and it is to Mexico and the United States almost entirely that the gain in the world's production in 1896 is due. Canada shows a large proportionate gain, but the total amount of its output is still comparatively small.

A question which presents the greatest interest at the present time is, will the gold production of the world rise much higher; and if so, from what sources are additions to come?

We can but estimate the probabilities of future production perhaps by taking up the different countries in succession, and for that purpose we will begin with our own. Within the last three years the United States has shown remarkable capacities for growth, and this has been due only in a minor degree to the discovery of new fields. The only gold districts opened in recent years whose production has been at all remarkable are the Cripple Creek district in Colorado, and the Mercur in Utah; these gold-fields, by the way, are radically different in formation, Cripple Creek being a region of comparatively small veins of high grade ores, while the Mercur is an extensive and unusual form of deposit of low grade. Other additions to the United States production have come from old and well-known districts, where new locations have been made and mines opened, where old mines have had their workings extended and where, in many cases, especially in California, many old mines abandoned years ago have been reopened; improvements in metallurgical processes and economies in mining have enabled us to work ores from which no profit could be earned fifteen or twenty years ago. In fact in this country the advance in metallurgical work which has enabled us to treat refractory ores by smelting, leaching and other processes, and the continued improvements which have enabled our mining engineers to work low-grade deposits at a remarkably low cost, will continue to increase our gold product for years to come.

In Canada no great or rapid addition is to be expected to the present output of the Nova Scotia and Ontario mines. It is reasonably certain, however, that there will be an important increase for some years in the output of British Columbia, where work is going on with great activity on the large bodies of ore and the large placer deposits which have been discovered and are now being developed in that province. So far, the greater part of the ores discovered can best be treated by smelting, and most of them come to the United States for treatment. This will probably continue to be the case, although it is quite likely that some smelters will be established in British Columbia by American and British capital. At present by far the greater part of the mining is conducted by Americans, and this will probably continue to be the case.

The recent developments in Mexico have been remarkable in extent, and there is every probability that the gold supply from that country will continue to increase. For centuries Mexico has been looked upon as a silver mining country entirely, and until within a very short time the gold mines have been

(Continued on page 3.)

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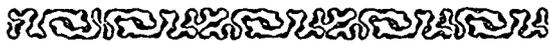
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7:00 a.m.	SPokane	7:00 p.m.

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COLUMBIA & WESTERN RAILWAY

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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