

MINING—Continued.

Mr. Lewis Hill, who has recently returned to his home, in Falmouth, Hants Co., after an absence of two years, reports that the outlook for minerals, on the North shore of Lake Superior, is very good.

At Black Bay, 15 miles east of Port Arthur, a valuable lead mine has recently been discovered, the lead being six feet wide. An analysis of the ore shows 71 per cent. lead, and 15 per cent. silver. The mine is now being developed by an American Company, the original owner, Mr. Duncan McEachern, still retaining a large share of the stock.

The Cape of Good Hope shows a steady production of about 5,000 tons of copper per annum.

Last year, the total yield of the Spanish copper mines was close on 41,000 tons, while Chili produced a few hundred tons over the 41,000.

There are now more than twenty separate and distinct copper-producing countries, most of which exercise more or less influence over the European market.

The manufacture of rope from asbestos bids fair to become an industry of considerable importance in England.

Silver bullion to the amount of \$20,422,924 was exported from the United States during the past fiscal year.

In Great Britain, at the close of 1884, silver to the amount of \$96,731,420 was in circulation at par with gold.

The pretended instability of silver is in fact an actual rise in gold, silver being by far the more stable of the two commodities.

\$70,000 in gold, the result of 15 days' work at the Tradewell mine on Douglas Island, Alaska, was forwarded to Victoria, B. C., in September.—*Alaskan*.

COPPER MARKET.—It is evident that the centre of trade which can attract the largest share of the annual out-turn of a given commodity must in the end become its controlling market. In virtue of that law London and Swansea now control the copper market of the world, for, as has been said, they have the handling of more than one-half of the total production. Last year, the imports into this country, chiefly to these two ports, were equal to 113,000 tons of fine copper. This, added to the Cornish production of (say) 2,500 tons, makes 115,500 tons distributed through the British market. Taking the aggregate production of the world at 210,000 tons, it would be about 55 per cent. If, however, the whole of the American production had been retained at home, it would have amounted to more than 112,000 tons, of which nearly 64,000 would have belonged to the United States, and the remainder to South America. Young as its copper industry is, America has thus already within her grasp a good half of the world's output. It has, moreover, the chances of the future largely on its side. New copper fields may, of course, be discovered in Europe and in Asia, or in Africa, but, failing them, the growth of production in the old world must be relatively slow. In America, there is certainty that enormous deposits of copper are yet untouched, and that the fields already open are capable of indefinite development.—*Engineering Times*.

A cubic foot of gold weighs 1,458½ pounds troy, or 1,200 pounds avoirdupois. It is worth \$361,810.46.

PLACER MINES.—Miners in Colorado are giving especial attention to the placers in that State, and it is predicted that before many years the rich sands all over that State will be worked for all that is in them. The placers of Colorado, like those of New Mexico, are known to be extensive and rich; and in the estimation of many familiar with both countries, even more valuable than the placers of California, from which such immense quantities of gold have been extracted. The great drawback to the working of the Colorado mines has been the lack of water, but experienced miners are taking hold of the problem, and are devising ways wherewith the dry placers can be made available. The richness of the New Mexico gravel all over the territory is not questioned, and they will not always remain undeveloped. By means of artesian wells, pipe lines and concentrating processes, the dry placers of this territory will yet be worked at a profit and produce a vast amount of gold.—*Mining World*.

Mexico.—The San Felipe de Jesus mine at Zacatecas has been bought by a St. Louis, U. S., company. The mine is on the Central Railway, four miles from the city of Zacatecas, and is a part of the Veta Grande vein, on which many good mines are situated. This vein has yielded \$796,000,000 in 284 years by official returns.

The Polaris mine comes to the front as the largest high grade ore-producer in this territory. The ore has increased in richness with depth. Eleven specimens taken from the assorted ore, from the one-hundred-foot level assayed, returned an average of 551 ounces of silver per ton.—*Review*.

The Douglas Copper Company have recently shipped from Blue Hill, Maine, upwards of 30,000 pounds of ingot copper.

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