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The Gold output in 1897. The United States *Engineering and Mining Journal* computes the entire output of gold throughout the world in 1897 to have had the value of \$241,390,000, as compared with \$212,155,000 in 1896. The product of each of the leading gold fields is stated by our New York contemporary to have been as follows:—

	1897.	1896.
United States.....	\$55,500,000	\$57,885,000
Transvaal.....	55,470,000	41,825,000
Australasia.....	50,910,000	43,700,000
Russia.....	32,500,000	31,050,000
British India.....	7,160,600	5,820,000
Mexico.....	6,800,600	6,025,000
Chile.....	6,640,600	6,640,000
Canada.....	6,000,000	2,810,000
British Guiana.....	2,585,600	2,560,000
Brazil.....	2,500,600	2,480,000
Other Countries.....	15,325,000	16,350,000
	\$241,390,000	\$212,145,000

The increase in 1897 over 1896 was \$29,245,000, the bulk of which was produced in South Africa and Australia. The gold fields which are in possession of Great Britain produced last year more than half the entire product of gold in the world. It is a curious coincidence that the value of the increase of gold production last year was the same amount as that by which the gold coinage of the United States was increased last year.

Nickel Enterprises. A few years ago there were strenuous efforts made to attract the attention of capitalists to the opportunities which were offered for the development of highly profitable enterprises by the deposits of nickel ore found in Canadian territory, which are the richest yet known to exist. The experiments made by the American Government and by the British Ordnance Department proved that this metal has qualities which would render its use very extensive in the future. Probably, owing to the enterprise being so novel, and a doubt about mining schemes generally, the proposal to secure nickel lands, and to develop them met with the cold shoulder in Canada, although it is known that several very wealthy capitalists were favourably disposed to the scheme. The opportunity

was seized by Americans who have received very large returns from their nickel mines in Canada. Their success has set others at work on the same lines, and has inspired what is promising to be a very strong movement for establishing smelting works in Ontario. A company with large capital has applied to the Ontario Government for incorporation to enable it to secure and develop lands in Algoma that contain nickel. A large tract of such properties has been purchased by capitalists connected with the Sault Ste. Marie Pulp Company, whose operations are proposed to be on a large scale. Now that all the maritime nations are building war vessels clad with nickel-steel armour plates, the demand for this metal is large, and increasing. The output from the Sudbury mines is over six millions of dollars yearly. Every ounce of the ore goes to the States for refining, as we stated last week, and a vigorous movement has been inaugurated to compel the American owners of Canadian mines to have the ores smelted in Canada. Were this successful, their product, added to the product of the new metal enterprises being organized, would make such smelting works a very notable addition to the industries of Canada.

A Klondyke Fatality.

There are other dangers incident to Klondyke besides those arising from climatic rigour and other physical drawbacks. A London bank manager is now a prisoner charged with having fraudulently applied to his own use, when a director of the company, the sum of \$4,350, the property of the Klondyke Gold Mining and Trading Company. He is also charged with conspiring with others to obtain money from persons, who applied for shares in that concern, by false pretences. The prisoner, Augustus Colin Aitken, was manager of the London & South Eastern Bank, Common St., London. The promoter of the company was one Savigny, who drew up a prospectus stating what was wholly untrue as to the concern having acquired land in the Klondyke, etc. Some \$38,000 was subscribed by the too easily gulled public, and deposited in the bank. The sum of \$25,000 was drawn by a cheque, on which Savigny was able to