

TIN MINES OF PERAK.—Taiping is thoroughly a Chinese town of the modern kind. The tin mines are just outside the town, and cover an area of several square miles, and are worked wholly by Cantonese. There are a series of hollows having the appearance of quarries; enormous numbers of coolies, working like so many ants, convey the sand or rubble to the washers' troughs, which are placed at a sufficient height to allow the water running freely down an incline. One man takes up the minute portions of tin, having the appearance of points of black lead, which sink at once to the bottom of the trough; others pick out stones from the gravelly mixture; others again push up the heavier portion of the mud from which the lead is not yet completely separated, so that it may pass through the water again and nothing be lost. The ore is then washed once more in special washing houses and is thrown with charcoal into a simple furnace, like a barrel standing on end, and made chiefly of clay; the molten lead oozes down through the charcoal and escapes through a hole in the bottom into a pit hollowed out of the ground, the tin being left. The tin molds are simply holes pressed into the sandy floor by circular wooden rollers, each consisting of half a section, with broad, wooden lips, which leave indentations similar in shape to the blocks of tin shipped abroad. The tin is left here several days to cool, when it is hauled out with a long iron rod and dashed with water. It is curious that the only tin mine in Perak supplied with adequate machinery and worked by Europeans fails to give a profit, while the Chinese with their primitive methods can turn the most unpromising mine to advantage. Kwala Kangar consists simply of one business street of Chinamen, the Malays living about in the jungle doing little. New roads are being laid out in every direction under the superintendence of the Resident, and the great trunk road is being continued inland, so as to reach the tin mines of Kinta, the produce of which reaches the coast by water now.—*London Financial Times.*

NEVADA MINERS DYED GREEN.—A contract has been let on the Martin White mine, at Ward, Nev., and work is to be resumed forthwith. A queer phenomenon is connected with the working of the Martin White ore. The ore is very base, and it is necessary to roast the whole of it. During the roasting process no deleterious or disagreeable fumes are observable, yet the hair and the beards of all the men engaged about the works are soon dyed a bright and permanent green. Even the eyebrows of the workmen are as green as grass. In scores of Nevada mines ores of various kinds are smelted and roasted, but at none of them is the hair or beards of the workmen changed from their natural hue. It is said there is less arsenic in the ore of the Martin White than in that of any other mine. Old smelters say that arsenic has no such effect on the hair, and all declare the emerald hue imparted to the hair is due to the presence of some unknown and very terious metal or mineral. White, light and sandy beards and hair take a grass green, whereas black or dark brown hair is dyed a deep bottle green. The hair is not injured by its change of color. It retains its original softness and strength.—*Territorial Enterprise.*

THE STORY OF THE ROCKS.—Geological history brings before us, says Archibald Geikie, many facts well calculated to impress our minds with the great antiquity of our planet, and with the marvelous chain of changes by which the present order of things has been brought about. We learn from it that mountains and valleys have not come suddenly into existence, such as we now see them, but have been formed gradually, by a long series of processes similar to those which are even now slowly doing the same work. We discover that every part of the land under our feet can yield up its story, if we only knew how to question it. And, strangest of all, we find that the races of plants and animals which now tenant land and sea are not the first or original races, but they were preceded by others, these again by others still more remote. We see that there has been upon the earth a history of living things, as well as of dead matter. At the beginning of that wonderful history we detect traces merely of lowly forms, like the foraminifera of the Atlantic ooze. At the end we are brought face to face with man—thinking, working, restless man, battling steadily with the powers of nature, and overcoming them one by one, by learning how to obey the laws which direct them.

MOST ANCIENT TIN MINE.—The Great Work tin mine, West Cornwall, which has recently been reopened, is undoubtedly the most ancient mine in the world. It is recorded that the Phoenicians came here for tin, and the public records show that the mine has been worked, with slight intervals of cessation, for the past 300 years. The value of the property is indicated by the extent of the workings, upon which no less than £390,024 has been expended, whilst the ore produced realized on sale £628,706. Although no fresh ground was opened, tin of the value of £100,000 and upwards has, during the past 20 years, been obtained from the surface and shallow workings. The contents of the prospectus are interesting, showing, as they do, what this property, which is not more than 180 fathoms in depth, has done. The lift is a mile and three-quarters in length, on the course of the lode, and in some places a mile in width, embracing an area of 720 acres. Underground the levels have been driven in the aggregate about 30 miles.

CONCENTRATES.—The great deposits of tin ore in the region of Rapid City, D. T., are soon to be worked.

In Southern Yunnan, at Kuochiuchang, China, some important tin mines are worked by the Chinese.

The Comstock produced \$48,000,000 of gold and silver during the first five years succeeding its discovery.

It is reported that near Oconto, Wis., a pocket of gold quartz that promises to yield from \$50,000 to \$75,000 per ton has been found.

Every minute in the States they dig 61 tons of anthracite coal and 300

tons of bituminous coal, while of pig iron they turn out 12 tons, and of steel rails 3 tons.

The Leadville mines, in the seven years from 1877, when its first smelter was built, to 1884, produced gold, silver and lead to the value of \$95,864,000.

The value of gold exported from Africa through the Cape Colonial ports for August, amounted to £55,576. The value of gold exported through Natal for August was £39,424.

A new process for amalgamating zinc and quick-silver without the admixture of any other material, it is stated, has just been invented.

Gold mining in Beauce, Que., is being prosecuted with renewed energy. A rich vein is said to have been recently struck on the river du Moulin.

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