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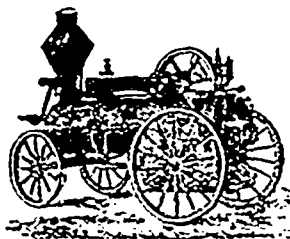
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MINING.

THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

From the Engineering and Mining Journal.

A study of the statistics and reports from the various parts of the world with respect to the production of gold shows that all fears of a falling off in the yield of the precious metal, so far as the near future is concerned, are groundless. Instead of a diminishing yield all indications point to a considerable increase at no very distant date. Complete statistics of the gold output of the world in 1891 are not yet obtainable, but we have enough data to feel warranted in making the assertion that the aggregate will be considerably greater than that of 1890.

Beginning with the older gold fields of the world, California in all probability made about the same outturn in 1891 as in the previous year, but the mines of Deadwood, South Dak., have made an increase, and there has also, without doubt, been an increase from the silver mines whose ore carries some gold. In our statistical number we estimated that the total production of gold in the United States in 1891 had amounted to \$33,250,000, against \$32,645,000 in 1890, as reported by the Director of the Mint. Australia will in all probability show about the same yield in 1891 as in 1890, for although there has been a falling off in the product of the Mt. Morgan mine, the great gold producer of Queensland, and perhaps also in New South Wales, the returns from Victoria which we have already received show an increase of 37,216 ounces, which will do much to make up for the deficiencies of the other Colonies. The latest statistics from Russia, those for 1890, which we published in our issue of February 6th, show an increase of over 75,000 ounces over the production of 1889, and although the returns for 1891 have not yet been compiled, it is officially reported that all indications point to another notable increase.

In the Transvaal the year 1891 was a phenomenal one, the output of the Witwatersrand mines having amounted to 720,233 ounces, against 494,801 ounces in 1890. The regularity of the advance in the yield of these mines month by month for the past four years, or since they were first opened, leaves no doubt that their maximum capacity has not yet been reached. Indeed the year 1892 has been commenced by a remarkable increase, the production during the month of January having amounted to 84,660 ounces, against 80,312 ounces in December, this having been the greatest output in any one month in the history of the district. The production of the four principal gold mines of Mysore, India, which practically represents the total gold output of that country, was also considerably greater in 1891 than in 1890, amounting to 130,140 ounces, against 104,500 ounces. Here, too, the output has shown such a regular expansion during the past three years that it is probable that the climax has not yet been attained, and a steadily increasing yield may be expected from this source.

According to the statistics of the Director of the Mint, the United States, Australasia, Russia, Africa and India produced in 1890 a trifle more than 83 per cent. of the total amount of gold produced in the world. In 1891 each of these countries or natural divisions made an increased output, with the possible exception of Australasia, and in the case of Africa, Russia and India the increase was large and important. After a study of these statistics and the reports which are coming from the various mining districts of these countries, there is no reason to think otherwise than that they will again increase their output in 1890, even should no new gold fields be discovered.

But there is every reason to expect that some new deposits of auriferous gravel and auriferous quartz lodes will be found within the next few years, particularly in the United States, Africa and Siberia, while it is certain that the extensive and rich beds of gravel in Brazil will not remain unworked much longer. The vast expanse of country forming the northwestern portion of the United States has by no means been thoroughly prospected, and new gold mines are constantly being found and opened there. Africa, an unexplored country, bids fair to yield a constantly increasing amount of gold. Pioneers are just going into Mashonaland and Matabeleland, and the reports that they send out are generally favorable, notwithstanding Lord Randolph Churchill's strictures. But this is only the beginning of the opening of the Dark Continent. Then there are vast ranges of country in Western and Northwestern Australia which are still *terra incognita*, but from the stories of the few explorers who have been there they seem promising and may revive the waning gold mining industry of that Continent. Eastern Siberia is also a land of great promise, and it is certain that valuable placers will be discovered there. Only within the past month has come news of new gold fields at Nertschink in the valley of the River Bcom, which are said to be rich and have started a rush of prospectors thither. As for Brazil, it is well known that there are immense beds of gravel there which can be worked without difficulty. Mr. A. M. Gibson, a very trustworthy observer, has written an article on the gold fields of that country. Little time, it must be remembered, is required to make a placer mine productive. No very expensive machinery or costly lines or flumes and ditches are necessary until easily accessible bars are exhausted, and any man can wash gravel with a long tom or a rude system of sluices. Hence when a start is made on any of the placers that are already known in various parts of the world, or which may be discovered, their influence will soon be felt. We do not doubt that the production of gold in the world will show as great an increase in the present decade as it did from 1880 to 1890, when it rose from 190,152 kiloes to 174,556 kiloes, according to the statistics of the Director of the Mint.

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