

the presence of an exceedingly high grade ore. Mining was, as it were, in the "gambling stage." Thousands of men, in following this method, "struck it rich," and cleared up immense fortunes in a very short time, but, on the other hand, there were many thousands who lost everything they possessed. Even at the present time it is not uncommon for some miner to discover a rich claim and to be suddenly transferred to a high position among America's multi-

millionaires. The fame of Cripple Creek and the Independence Mine is still green. Less than ten years ago the district lying west of Pike's Peak was unknown and uninhabited, and a carpenter named Stratton was working at his trade earning his bread by the sweat of his brow. Today there is to be found in this place the greatest mining camp on earth, Cripple Creek, with a population of 40,000 and Mr. Stratton's wealth is estimated at from 50 to 100 millions.



Such rich discoveries, however, are now comparatively rare, and today gold mining is carried on extensively and profitably in low grade ores. It has been reduced to a business basis. Large smelters have been erected; the best machinery is used and the problem has been boiled down to "the production of the greatest amount of gold per ton of ore at a minimum cost."

Colorado also produces immense quantities of silver, lead, copper, coal and iron.

Space will not permit me to describe at any length the climate of this

famous health resort. It may be said, however, that this it is which has been the magnet which has drawn to the State more of her residents and wealth than any other single attraction. From observations taken we find that from July 20, 1872, to February 22, 1885, there were but thirty-two days on which the sun failed to appear. The average temperature is 49.1° , the average maximum being 79.2° and the average minimum 19.7° ; the average rainfall is 14.95 inches; the average number of days upon which rain or snow falls, 81; the average number of sunny days, 340.

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