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Gold in Alberta.

James Gibbons states: That bench diggings occur about 75 miles above Edmonton. There is a steep bank there with a stratum of gravel 15 to 20 feet thick from low water mark up.

There are bench diggings on miner's flat and on the Hudson's Bay flat, on Rusty Bar flat, opposite clover Bar flat. Men have done well in drifting on Rusty bar flat. I have made \$12 a day on it. The average we used to make on bars with a rocker was \$16 to \$20 a day, in 1865, our first year. The river has been worked every year since and the average is now from \$1 to \$3 per day. The gold is now harder to save than in our day, when we used only a rocker and copper plates, not grizzlies and blankets. I invented the grizzly which is now used and is more effective than the rocker. I think the gold-bearing gravel extends under the surface of the country, and is not confined to the old river bed. I don't think the country outside of the river has been prospected at all. I think if any coarse gold is found this side of the Rocky Mountains it will be found this side of the Brazeau river. This country for 75 miles above and 150 miles below Edmonton has been the gold-producing district for the last 30 years. In swift current you can find no float gold. The Goose Encampment is about the last place we found gold up the Saskatchewan. There are several bars on this river within 40 miles above here, and a little farther up, and after a year of unusually high water miners can make \$10 to \$12 per day on these bars by skimming off just one or two inches, the deposit left by the high water. My last work yielded me \$12 per day. In the old days \$12 per day would not be especially good pay as provisions were very high. If coarse gold is found I don't think it will be found on the bars. Where there is coarse gold, you find colors of it in the creeks near. Coarse gold always sinks to the bed rock of the rivers. If coarse gold is found on this side of the Rocky Mountains I think it will be found on the Brazeau, because the headwaters of that river are in a direct line with Cariboo and are in slate rock, but my opinion is that there is no coarse gold on this side of the mountains, though coarse gold has been found where one would never think of looking for it. We have prospected the head waters of the Saskatchewan and find they are in a sand stone range, and I don't think coarse gold will be found there, but rather in the neighborhood of the Jasper Pass where there is slate quartz. Hubert prospected on my flat and was so satisfied with the result that he offered to bring in all the machinery necessary to work it I would join him. I believe there is gold in the old river bed and that it is likely to be richer than the river is now.

Wm. Cust said that he went with four others up the Findlay Creek of the Peace river

in 1862. They found a horse shoe bend about three miles up the creek from the forks, and at the bend was a bar which would have yielded them \$8,000 each if they had gone about 300 yards across it, but they did not discover that fact until 15 months afterwards. They worked six days on the bar and realized \$1000 between the five men. E. J. Carey was Mr. Cust's partner. They went out and another party came in and spoiled the bar, which was the best place on the Peace river. It was the outlet for coarse gold. I worked on Manson Creek the next summer for six months, but only made \$1,800 in that time. We went up the Findlay branch 150 miles, but did not find anything else worth working. I think it might now be again profitably worked, if a man had provisions, but at that time we were not looking for small game. Provisions are too expensive up there to make mining profitable. Do not know or any bench digging on Peace river. At the bar they struck. (Peter Joy's) they could see the gold in the black sand with the naked eye. There was as much gold as black sand. They worked without suitable tools, which had been lost with a canoe. Best diggings are found in the high ground of the river banks, at about high water mark. Had made \$10 to \$12 per day at Dunvegan on Peace river.

Donald Ross says that on the Saskatchewan river, Edmonton is about the centre of the auriferous gravel. It extends 100 miles up the river and more than that down, and the further you get away from the centre the fewer paying bars you find. There is no doubt but that on some of the flats in the river paying digging could be found. They make it pay now where drifts are found. The first winter he was here in 1872-73 he worked one of the bars as far as 100 feet into the drift, washed the dirt in the spring and made \$10 per day during the wash up. Does not think there is any coarse gold or quartz to be found this side of the Rocky Mountains, but has not prospected anywhere except on the Saskatchewan river, and there are no indications of coarse gold in that river. In the gravel in his own garden gold can be found, but he doubts whether in sufficient quantities to pay for working. In the summer of 1873 he and his partners stripped during the high water, through the sand out into the river, and when low water came they washed out \$200 worth of gold in ten days. That was near the barracks at Fort Saskatchewan. He has had no experience in bench diggings. There is a place down the river about 60 miles, below Vermillion, where he had good prospects in the bank, about 20 feet up, and believes good plying bench diggings could be made there. The gravel in the river is not in some places more than a foot thick. Up the river in places the water flows on the bare coal. When he had made up his mind to quit the river, a man stopped about 8 miles above Fort Saskatchewan after very high water and made

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\$23.50 in one day, when high water drove him out. He went back at low water and made \$27.50 per day. That was in 1874. Thinks the gold found in the river is washed out of the undeveloped sand stone found on the river banks. Gold has been found in California in sand stone.

Dan. Noyes has been here 23 years and says that back from the river wherever you can find gravel you get gold. He found it on the Hudson's Bay Co.'s flat, two feet from the surface. Made \$10 to \$15 a day at first. Another made \$25. Sam Livingstone made \$25 per day all summer and so did Sandy Anderson. They were the first miners in 1855. Was last mining 8 years ago and never made less than \$5 per day. Has heard of gold the size of a pin head on a bar up the Brazeau river, and believes it was in the mouth of a canyon, 15 miles from the Saskatchewan. There are good prospects on the McLeod river, the bench is on sandstone. Half-breeds made \$5 to \$8 per day. There are lots of bench diggings there. There is also gold on the Pembina river.

Mr. George Wilkins says that starting from about 35 miles above Jasper House there is a bed of gold bearing quartz that runs for several miles up the Mietta river. This quartz has been assayed and shown to carry about \$8 to the ton. This bed of quartz is practically inexhaustible. The bed rock of the country there is granite. Further into the Cariboo district at Tete Jaune Cache two or three mica mines have already been discovered and one is now being worked by J. T. Smith, of Kamloops, who took out about 1,500 pounds of muscovite last year, some of which was 12x30 inches. Last year a very fine specimen of the oriental topaz was discovered on one of the creeks running into the Fraser river, and beryl has been discovered at the Tete Jaune Cache mica mine. Granite is also the bed rock of the country there. Placer gold in materially paying quantities is found right along from Tete Jaune Cache to Barkerville. The gold range being heavily timbered with cedar and fir has prevented any thorough prospect of this district being made.

Silver.

The silver markets this week have been featureless but strong, on a slight increase in the eastern demand and somewhat smaller supplies in the London market. New York quotations followed those in London very closely, a portion of the earlier advance being lost toward the close of the week. Silver prices May 1 were: London \$1 1-16d; New York 63½c.

The monthly statement of the public debt of the United States shows that on April 30 the debt, less cash in the treasury, was \$918,287,670 an increase for the month of \$5,951,417.