

## MINING.

A correspondent in West Pubnico, who is a regular subscriber to THE CRITIC, and who expresses his satisfaction with the mining department of this journal, says that the quartz from the leads discovered at Pubnico Point has been tested, and the assay shows it to contain gold in paying quantities. Our correspondent holds several claims in the district, but not having sufficient capital to purchase the requisite machinery, he is willing to sell out a portion of his claims, at a moderate figure, to anyone who will put up a crusher and undertake the development of the leads. Doubtless some of our practical mining men will deem his offer worthy of consideration, if so, the name and full address of the owner can be obtained at this office.

**WEST GORE.**—At the Antimony Mines in West Gore, two inclined shafts and one perpendicular have been sunk. The ore is at present hoisted by horse power, but it is the intention of the owners, Messrs. H. M. Davidson, John Wallace and John McDougall, to put in a steam hoisting gear. Forty men are now employed in the mine, and their number will shortly be increased to 60 or 70. 100 tons of ore, valued at from \$50 to \$55 a ton, are shipped monthly to England via Halifax.

THE CRITIC has asked for our views as regards our mining interests. It wants to know whether "the idea of sinking a test shaft" by the Government "in one of our recognized gold bearing leads in order to prove whether or not the gold miners of Nova Scotia contain a second pay-streak," is approved of by us. We say yes. We believe now is the time to ascertain.—*Spectator*.

**AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINES.**—The comparatively inexhaustible character of the gold deposits of Australia is shown by the fact that in one part of the Ophir district in New South Wales the principal quartz reef or blow, known as the Bluff, is at or near the identical spot where Hargraves found the first gold, the discovery of which has been the principal cause of Australia's rapid advancement. Here a solid mass of quartz, several yards in thickness and fully a hundred feet in height, meets the eye. The quartz has a decidedly auriferous appearance, containing galena, iron, arsenical pyrites, and probably a good percentage of silver. There is a very excellent site for quartz crushing machinery near the bluff, and the quartz can be obtained in almost unlimited quantities. The country between Ophir and Orange has marked signs of the prevalence of gold deposits, especially within a few miles of Orange.

In the Smithsonian Institution at Washington is the small nugget of gold, a little larger than a pea, that first met the eyes of James Marshall in the sawmill raceway at Sacramento, and was the beginning of those discoveries in California that have added nearly \$1,500,000,000 in gold to the world's stock of the precious metals.

**GOLD AND SILVER.**—Senator Teller presented elaborate tables showing the coin circulation of the world, from which it appeared that the silver circulation of Great Britain was \$2.69 per head of population, Germany, \$4.67 per head, the United States, \$4.88 per head, and France, \$15.79 per head. The total coinage of the world, he said, had been estimated as follows: Silver, \$2,776,000,000, gold \$3,292,000,000. But gold and silver had been found insufficient to carry on the business of the world and all nations had resorted to paper currency based on these metals. The whole amount of paper money issued has been \$3,973,900,000, which was more than the whole amount of either gold or silver. If then, gold and silver combined had been insufficient in quantity to carry on the world's trade, what reason was there for supposing that gold alone would be sufficient.—*Chicago Mining Review*.

The following are the official returns for the month of January:

	Tons	Oz.
<b>SALMON RIVER.</b> —Dufferin Mining Co,	947	1297
" " Old Mulgrave lode,	28	49.14.0
" " other mines,	19	17.18
<b>WAVERLEY.</b> —C. F. McClure,	45	24.18.0
<b>LUKE CATCHA.</b> —Oxford Gold Mining Co,	56	67.10.0
<b>RAWDON,</b>	84	155.0.0

From the most reliable data which we have been able to obtain, such as the local press of the various mining districts, and from the offices of the mining companies in this city, we compute the total value of the metallic products made on the Pacific Slope at \$80,000,000. This figure will probably prove not much out of the way, the amount computed for 1883 being \$90,000,000, and for 1884, \$95,000,000, the decrease being for the most part due to the stoppage by law of those gravel claims in California which every month poured into the lap of the financial centers thousands of dollars of gold bullion, and it is a mooted question whether the benefits, such as giving work to a large number of miners and the erection of costly machinery, paying nothing of the gold produced, did not offset the damages from the accumulation of debris in the river bottoms.—*Alta, California*.

**IDAHO AND MONTANA.**—These territories are making rapid strides in mining; their mines are being worked economically and are mostly controlled by San Francisco capitalists, who bring their well-earned experience to bear, together with the employment of many of the old Comstock miners. The Wood River District mine, and the Horn Silver are very large producers of bullion. The placers in Montana, which are of considerable extent, are being worked and yield well.

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