



**BULLION PRODUCTION INCREASES.**—Washington, Jan. 1, 1900.—The preliminary estimate of the production of gold and silver in the United States in the calendar year 1899, made by Mr. Roberts, the director of the mint, shows a total gold production of \$73,474,170, an increase over the production of last year of \$8,961,170. The production of silver in the year is estimated at \$74,123,996, an increase during the year of \$3,739,511.

**EDWARD TODD**, the veteran manufacturer of gold pens, and for many years at the head of Edward Todd & Co., died at his home in New York last Sunday from cerebral hemorrhage. He was born in Bristol, Conn., and learned his trade, gold-pen making, from Bard Bros., of New York. Later he became a member of the firms, Smith & Todd, Mabrie, Todd & Co., and finally of the present firm as above. He was active in business associations and charitable work.

**HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 15.**—Paschal Converse, who died a few days ago in New Haven at the advanced age of eighty-nine years, was an associate of Chauncey Jerome and Hiram Camp in the establishment of the clock manufacturing business in New Haven. Mr. Converse half a century ago left his home in Bristol and assisted in forming the Chauncey Jerome Clock Company, which afterward became the New Haven Clock Company. He died at the residence of his daughter.

**THE ZILBRUGG COMPANY** has leased an office at 9 to 13 Maiden Lane, into which its New York offices, now at 65 Nassau Street, will soon be removed. It will occupy quarters in conjunction with the Philadelphia Watch Case Company, which will hereafter act as the exclusive export agent for the New York Standard Watch Company. The New York Standard Watch Company will abandon its offices in the Corbin Building, at 11 John Street, and its domestic trade hereafter will be conducted in its factory in Jersey City, N.J.

**EMBARRASSED.**—The New York creditors of Samuel Mayer, of Denver, Col., have received from Mr. Mayer letters stating that he is insolvent, and offering to take such steps as the creditors deem best. According to Mr. Mayer's statement his liabilities are about \$77,000 and his assets are worth over \$50,000. His assets consist of stock worth about \$40,000, good accounts worth \$6,000, a \$5,000 equity in real estate and some mining shares. A conference of Mayer's largest creditors was held and it was decided to call a general meeting of creditors.

**THE DEATH OF HENRY WOOD.**—Henry Wood, one of the oldest silversmiths in New York, the senior member of Wood & Hughes, of 24 John Street, died suddenly recently at his residence in Red Bank, N.J. His death was due to apoplexy, and was unexpected. He had been suffering a long time of optical hemorrhages, but otherwise, with the exception of a slight illness two weeks ago, his health had been good. One night he appeared restless and finally, about midnight, went to bed. An apoplectic paroxysm began soon afterward, and he died about one o'clock.

**CAN'T MOVE YET.**—Cincinnati, Dec. 10.—The extensive improvements that have been made on the new factory building recently purchased by the Wadsworth Watch Case Co. in

Dayton, Ky., are not as yet completed, and the factory will not be ready to move into until about the latter part of January. This fact, however, will not stop the company from its usual custom of closing down its plant from Christmas to New Year's to give the employees a week's vacation and to make necessary repairs. After that the removal of the plant will be made when the new factory is in readiness, and the concern will be moved by departments without the necessity of closing down. The company has been very successful in business during the past year and has made and sold over twice the number of cases made last year. This puts the total output for the year 1899 up to over 200,000.

**ELGIN, Ill., Dec. 11.**—The announcement made at the watch factory last week that the wage scale of 1892 would be restored caused great rejoicing throughout the institution and has caused the business men generally to look forward to a return of the prosperity that prevailed here before the panic. The watch factory is the principal industry of the city and its prosperity or the lack of it affects everyone doing business here. Wages in the factory have advanced steadily under the wise management of the new President, Mr. Hurlburt, and every operative has perfect faith in him and feels assured that he will redeem every promise made. The watch factory now has 2,300 operatives on the pay rolls and the amount paid out monthly at present exceeds \$100,000. The advance will be more than 6 per cent. and means an addition to the roll of \$10,000 each month. The change of scale goes into effect Jan. 1, and already the work of readjustment has commenced.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

**THE GEM MARKETS.**—London, Dec. 30th.—Unfortunately there is no good news to report; things are much the same as last month, and if anything quieter. It is rumored that there is plenty of rough in London, but the trouble is to get it. The general opinion is that the syndicate are holding the rough in order to see which way the things will turn in South Africa. There is no possibility, whatever, as far as one can judge, that the price of the precious white stone will fall; in fact, the opinion is generally expressed that it will remain up. Apart from the war, the economic conditions are a factor which must keep it practically at its present high rate. There has been a fairly good demand for emeralds and rubies, whilst complaints have been made that decent garnets of medium size were only obtained with difficulty.

**Paris, Dec. 28th.**—Business in diamonds was again very bad, only a few parcels of small *mêles* of middle quality and a few small parcels of three and four grainers being sold. There is little demand for any quality of polished diamonds; the war of course is responsible. A large business ought to be done at the Paris Exhibition, but unfortunately there are little signs of much at present. Business in colored stones and pearls is fairly good; fine emeralds and rubies are still in demand; few large parcels of cheap rubies and sapphires were sold, mainly for exportation.

**Amsterdam, Dec. 27th.**—Business during the past month has been very bad, mainly owing to the present war in the Transvaal. Very small quantities of polished diamonds were