

Another tendency is perceptible of late years, that directed towards improvement in concentrating. This involves the study of the various machines used in the concentration of other ores, and the result of these experiments has led to the adoption of some of the simpler apparatus, such as Rittinger's pointed box. The extent to which dressing operations should be carried is at present problematical; it is not unlikely that the nature and richness of the ore, together with the variation in the cost of operating the plant, will militate against the adoption of any common system. The importance of sizing before concentrating is being generally recognized, but the installation of a more or less complete system seems to be a rather hazardous experiment from a financial point of view. This question is a very interesting one, and would require a thorough examination of some mining district before it could be handled satisfactorily with regard to that region.

As to the cost of milling little can be said. Local conditions are the chief factors, and no one sum can be given as an average value. Water power is much cheaper than steam; the cost of the latter varies with the price of fuel, and wages differ everywhere.

The figures opposite each district in the following table represent the cost at some mill in that locality. These establishments have been chosen as representative by a good authority:

DISTRICT.	Number of Stamps Running.	Weight of Stamp.	Tons Treated per 24 hours.	Cost of Milling per Ton.
Grass Valley, Cal.....	40	850	1.6	81c.
Alaska.....	240	900	2.9	44
Nova Scotia.....	10	...	2.9	35
Bendigo, Victoria.....	40	900	2.3	58
Gilpin Co., Col.....	75	550	1.0	75

In the west of our own province the cost of milling is said to be high, but statistics are wanting, and nothing definite can be given. The district is new, and the operations carried on up to the present are, in a certain sense, experimental. Some of the results are exceedingly promising, and there is apparently nothing to prevent the establishment of a flourishing industry in gold winning.

In presenting this series of notes, the writer regrets the fragmentary nature of the whole; but as has been said before, the salient features alone have been touched on. For details, reference may be made to the following works: "Metallurgy of Gold," by Manuel Eissler; and "Gold," by T. K. Rose.