

scientist claimed to have succeeded in transmuting silver into gold by a secret process. No quotations, however, have as yet been published respecting the market price of the gold from this new source of supply. The miner still commands the situation, and is likely to do so for a long time to come.

A fool there was, and his house he sold,
 (Even as others have done!)
 And went out West to the Klondike cold,
 Intent on digging for gold, bright gold—
 But, oh, my friends, he got sadly sold,
 (Even as others have done!)
 Oh, the frost he fought, and the turf he turned,
 And the work of shovel and pick
 Brought him 'nary a nugget of gold;
 And the heart that was once so hopeful and bold,
 Soon grew both weary and sick.
 He made a great deal less than he spent,
 (Even as others have done!)
 And honor, and faith, and a sure intent,
 He lost along with his very last cent—
 And now he is sorry that ever he went,
 (Even as many another one!)
 Oh, the toil so hard, and the spoil so scarce,
 And the claims that poorly "panned,"
 And the digging down in the frozen earth,
 And the working away for all you're worth,
 And the getting nothing but sand.
 The fool got sick of his foolish quest,
 (Even as others have done!)
 So he cursed his luck, and the wild Nor'-West!
 And he struck out for home with a wondrous zest,
 To become of his fellow men the jest,
 (Even as others have done!)
 And it isn't the shame of skipping his claim,
 That makes him feel like a freak—
 It's coming to know that the gold was there,
 (Learning at length of fortunes made there)
 Where he couldn't strike a streak.

One of the most interesting sights in the great mining town of Butte, says the *Anaconda, Montana, Recorder*, is the process by which copper is caught from the emerald-colored water that flows from the Anaconda and St. Lawrence mines. It is estimated that this water, which for four or five years went to waste, is now bringing the Anaconda Company £6000 a month, at a cost of about £200 a month. It is only within the present year that the company undertook to handle this water. Heretofore it was worked under lease. An old German, named Mueller, was the first man to save copper from the water. During the last three years Thomas Ledford had a lease of the water. He paid a 25 per cent. royalty to the company. It is claimed that he realised at least £20,000 a year from the water. Ledford is a pretty rich man to-day. Now that the company is operating the waters on its own account, it has discovered what a great money-making enterprise it is. At the present time several acres of ground are covered with wooden vats. These are filled with all the old scrap-iron they can hold. It has proved a splendid scheme for disposing of the tons and tons of old iron the company has accumulated for years. Old hoisting cages, water-pipe, wheelbarrows, railroad

iron; in fact, any old thing that consists of tin or iron is appropriated to this service. It is said for every pound of iron put into a vat a pound of copper is produced. Where the water first attacks the iron the copper absorbs the iron completely within three weeks. After the precipitation is affected, the water is drawn off and the slimy copper is transferred to another tank, where the water is further drained off. These latter vats hold about fifteen tons of copper, which now has the appearance of a clayish substance. This is sacked into packages of about 100lb. When in this shape it is sent to the smelters. The product carries an average of 86 per cent. pure copper. The iron remaining in it makes a fine flux, and, when mixed with other smelting ores, it is said to bring the ore up to a value of about £60 a ton. The water from the mines is the most profitable product of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.

An apparatus has been invented by Mr. Joseph Thomson, of Cardiff, for measuring the quantity of air passing in mines. By the adoption of this instrument it is claimed to be practicable for any man or boy of average intelligence, by merely actuating a switch, to ascertain with scientific precision the volume of air passing any point fixed upon by the management. Thus: A transmitting instrument may be permanently fixed in the fan drift of a colliery and the indications of the quantity of air taken by the fan engineman—who usually is only partially employed—or by a clerk in the colliery offices without moving from his ordinary post, or at any other point or number of points, by merely running ordinary telegraph wires. The same process may be applied to the different splits of air underground. Hence says "Invention," it is clear that any occurrence in the workings of the mine which to any material extent interferes with the free passage of the air cannot pass undetected, except for a very short space of time, while the district in which the resistance has occurred can also be indicated. Thus, a fall, or falls, of roof occurring in a remote part of an air-way (a contingency, the effect of which, though not perceptible to the physical senses under ordinary circumstances, may be yet capable of producing conditions of great danger by interfering with the free course of the ventilation, and fostering accumulations of gas) would be immediately detected by the person observing, he in his turn promptly reporting the same to the management; a condition of danger would thus be located quickly, which might otherwise have passed undetected for many hours, with possibly disastrous results. The instrument is said to have been tested at some pits in the Rhondda, and proved to be acutely sensitive, indicating lulls and spurts in the air current within a second or two of their occurrence.

Haulage ropes are generally made of steel wire, in Germany mostly of plough steel. According to a paper read by Ellingen, and reported in the "Zeitschrift des Vereins Deutscher Ingenieure," ropes of aloe fibre may still compete with steel, even for deep shafts. The aloe fibre is stronger and more elastic, but less flexible than Manilla hemp; its chief advantage is that it becomes stronger in damp places. The ropes have to be tarred, but in spite of this circumstance, the corresponding lengths of rope which would break by virtue of their own weight, are 12,000 for aloe, and 12,500 for steel. In Belgian mines haulage by means of aloe ropes is quite common; great lengths are made with decreasing thickness. A new style of rope of his own, to which the speaker drew attention, is the simplex rope which Felton and Guillaume manufacture. It is recommended for telfer lines, not for haulage. These wires are tubular. All the wires being visible from outside and pressed against one another, breakages are said to be most unlikely, and faults would at once be discovered. A simplex