

crushing the ore, and chlorination works for extracting by chemical process the finely disseminated ore. The fumes from the chlorination works have killed the surrounding forest over a large area.

The annual output from this mine is about \$800,000, of which a little over half is profit.

On several mines back of Juncau, in the Silver Bow Basin, several hundred thousand dollars have been expended in extensive hydraulic mining, but so far the net results have not been very remunerative. Prospectors' holes, and small tunnels, are quite numerous along the coast. Each in turn had its day of showing the "best indications" and then dropped out of sight.

Mining, or rather prospecting, is undoubtedly an alluring vocation. The prospector lives and starves on hope, striking it rich some day; yet, how very small is the probability of his success and how great the sacrifice he makes.

The discovery of rich gold and silver mines or diggings is not an unmixed good. The value of these mineral finds, although sometimes very rich, is generally ephemeral. The result is an abnormal prosperity of one or more towns or cities whose birth is due to the gold or silver discovery. Railroads are built, business, bustle and activity are rampant in the mining region. After a few short years, the scene changes, mines or diggings are exhausted, there is a stampede out of the district almost as vehement as there was into it. Real estate, houses, blocks, everything immovable becomes unsaleable. Many of the people of the mining region have been ruined through its shortlived prosperity. A glaring example of these conditions is the state of Nevada, which some years ago was struck by a rich mineral wave, on the crest of which Nevada was enabled to ride into full sisterhood in the Union. To-day it lies prostrate, and her whole population, spread over an area of 110,000 square miles, is less than that of the city of Ottawa. In the same relation I might mention the Fraser River and Cariboo gold diggings in the sixties. Where are to-day the signs of prosperity of those golden footsteps of years gone by? What I wish to impress is, that a country that is solely or mainly dependent on gold or silver production is a factor in unstable equilibrium. Gold and silver mining is not conducive to the permanent