RICHES IN GOLD AND SILVER

THE CENSUS MONOGRAPH ON THE PRECIOUS METALS.

ONE-THIRD OF THE GOLD AND ONE-HALF OF THE SILVER PRODUCT OF THE WORLD CREDITED TO THE UNITED STATES—THE YIELDS OF THE VARIOUS STATES AND OTHER STATISTICS.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The United States produce one-third of the gold and one-half of the silver which are taken from the earth in the whole world each year. The gold produced in this country in the census year 1880 amounted to five ordinary car-loads, and the silver would have loaded a train of 109 freight cars of the usual capacity. This annual product would make a full cargo for a large modern ship. The distribution of the world's annual product of bullion is shown in the following table published by the Census Bureau:

Continent.	*Total Bullion Product.*	*Per-centage.*
North America	$101,558,348	55.78
Africa	1,993,800	1.10
Australia	29,018,223	15.93
Europe, including Russia in Asia	39,607,271	21.75
Japan	1,382,948	.76
South America	8,531,761	4.68
Total	$182,092,351	100.00

The work of gathering information about the production of the precious metals in the United States was intrusted by Superintendent Walker to Mr. Clarence King, who divided the field into three parts—the Pacific division, with head-quarters at San Francisco; the Rocky Mountain division, with head-quarters at Denver, and the Eastern division, with head-quarters at Newport, R. I. In the course of the work 2,292 mines were examined and 413 mills and smelting-works. The production by States and geographical divisions for the census year ending May 31, 1880, is shown in the following table:

PACIFIC DIVISION.

State or Territory.	*Gold.*	*Silver.*	*Total.*
Alaska	$5,951	$51	$6,002
Arizona	211,965	2,325,825	2,537,790
California	17,150,941	1,150,887	18,301,828
Idaho	1,479,653	464,550	1,944,203
Nevada	4,888,242	12,430,667	17,318,909
Oregon	1,097,701	27,793	1,125,494
Utah	205,747	3,068,614	3,274,361
Washington	135,800	1,019	136,819
Total	$25,176,000	$19,469,406	$44,645,406

DIVISION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

Colorado	$2,699,898	$16,549,274	$19,249,172
Dakota	3,305,843	70,813	3,376,656
Montana	1,805,767	2,905,068	4,710,835
New-Mexico	49,354	392,337	441,691
Wyoming	17,321	....	17,321
Total	$7,878,183	$19,917,492	$27,795,675

EASTERN DIVISION.

Alabama	$1,301	....	$1,301
Georgia	81,029	$332	81,361
Maine	2,999	7,200	10,199
Michigan	....	25,858	25,858
New-Hampshire	10,999	16,000	26,999
North Carolina	118,953	140	119,093
South Carolina	13,040	56	13,096
Tennessee	1,998	....	1,998
Virginia	9,321	....	9,321
Total	$239,640	$49,586	$289,226

SUMMARY.

Pacific Division	$25,176,000	$19,469,406	$44,645,406
Division of the Rocky Mountains	7,878,183	19,917,492	27,795,675
Eastern Division	239,640	49,586	289,226
Total	$33,293,823	$39,436,484	$72,730,307

Some gold and silver was produced which is not accounted for in this table. The value of gold nuggets and ore annually added to the cabinets of collectors is probably $150,000, and the silver ore thus preserved amounts to about $50,000. About $50,000 worth of gold quartz is made into jewelry and souvenirs. In handling gold dust as currency the annual loss is about $10,000, and perhaps $30,000 is lost in melting and assaying. These additions would raise the total to $73,020,307. California still holds the first place in production of gold. The vast deposits of auriferous gravel continue to yield largely, though their final exhaustion, in view of the enormous hydraulic operations now going on, must be expected at no distant day. The State furnishes 71.47 per cent. of the total product of placer mines, and 51.38 per cent. of the product of deep mines. The discoveries in the Bodie district added greatly to the deep mine product. The amount of silver produced is comparatively small. The gold production is $108 30 per square mile. The decrease of the yield of the Comstock lode has caused a considerable decline in the product of Nevada. In 1876 the Comstock yielded $18,002,906 in gold and $20,570,078 in silver, but in the census year the yield of the entire Comstock district and outlying veins was only $6,922,-830 for both gold and silver. The placer yield of Nevada is insignificant. No important gravel deposits having suitable water supply are known to exist. The yield in Utah is from a comparatively few rich claims, and varies but little from year to year. The placer yield was only $20,000. More than half the ore is milled, although the Territory's mining is generally regarded as dependent upon smelting works. The development of the Tombstone district has given a marked impulse to mining in Arizona. The placer yield is only $30,000. Since 1876 the yield in Idaho has depended largely upon the old placer mines of Boisé basin. The panic of 1876 in San Francisco seriously affected the Owhyee mines, which had contributed heavily to the annual output. The proportion of placer to deep mine gold in Idaho is as 60 to 40. The census examination was made too early to include the developments in the Wood River country and the Yankee Fork region. Mr. King predicted when he wrote the census report that the output of Idaho would be doubled in two years. Mining is overshadowed in Oregon by other industries. Nearly all the deep mine gold in the State is taken from the quartz veins of Baker County. Gold quartz mining is conducted on a small scale in Yakima County, Washington Territory, and the Upper Columbia placers furnish more than one-half of the Territory's placer yield. Alaska contains many gold-bearing districts, but the yield has been small. In the census year $5,951 in placer gold was sent to the San Francisco Mint. Colorado had suddenly risen to the first rank as a producer of the precious metals, although as a producer of gold the State was fourth in the census year. Including lead and copper, the product was $22,750,000. The placer yield in that year was small. The Black Hills mines furnish Dakota's yield. The placer product was about $50,000. Two-thirds of the deep mine product of Montana is milled. The gravel deposits are valuable, and it is estimated that the placer yield is $1,162,906. The mines of New-Mexico, in 1880, were awaiting the extension of railroads. Many of these mines were difficult and even dangerous of access. The Census Bureau's work there was affected by the assassination of Col. Charles Potter, the expert in charge of the Territory. There is rich placer ground in New-Mexico, but for want of water, but little gold has been obtained from it. In Wyoming, the actual production was confined to Sweetwater County. The average fineness of placer gold in the United States is .876. Of the ore mined in the census year, 91.39 per cent. in tonnage was treated at the reduction works, and 8.61 per cent. was left on the dumps. The average result of the working treatment, as compared with assay value, was 81.86 per cent. of the gold contents, 79.68 per cent. of the silver, and 80.40 per cent. in all. The highest average yield was from the Arizona ores—$7 01 gold, and $86 24 silver, per ton. Of the total gold product of the country, 64 per cent. came from deep mines, and 36 per cent. from hydraulic, placer, drift, and river mines. The total coinage for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, was $84,370,144, of which $56,157,735 was gold. The total coinage of the United States from 1793 to June 30, 1880, was $1,438,719,925, of which $1,133,103,322 was gold. It is estimated, by means of mint records and the reports of manufacturers, that the amount of gold consumed in the arts in the year ending June 30, 1880, was $10,000,000, and of silver $5,000,-000. Of this, $5,500,000 in gold and $4,000,000 in silver were of domestic bullion produced in the year; $2,500,000 in gold and $600,000 in silver were United States coin, and the remainder was old manufactured articles and foreign coin. The consumption of precious metals in the industries and arts in the census year is shown in the following table:

Manufactures.	*Gold.*	*Silver.*	*Total.*
Watches and jewelry	$6,517,986	$959,642	$7,477,628
Watch-cases and manufactures	1,202,872	1,817,248	3,020,120
Gold leaf and plate	850,929	606,329	1,457,258
Chemicals	55,410	76,519	131,929
Instruments	6,996	4,432	11,428
Total	$8,634,193	$3,464,170	$12,098,363

The census monograph upon the precious metals will be illustrated by charts and plates showing the distribution of the product of the United States and of the world, and the annual fluctuations of the yield in this country since 1848.