

PARKER'S FIGURES ON COAL

Statistician of United States Shows Amount Mined Last Year. INCREASE OVER NINETEEN EIGHT ENORMOUS Result of Work in the Coal Mines of This Country Shows an Increase of Seventeen and a Half Per Cent.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—According to returns representing between 80 and 90 per cent of the total tonnage, the production of coal in the United States in 1899 is estimated by Edward W. Parker, statistician of the United States geological survey, to have amounted to 230,835,973 long tons, equivalent to 258,529,650 short tons. As compared with the production of 1898, when the product amounted to 205,967,000 short tons, it indicates an increase of over 12.5 per cent, or 17.5 per cent. These figures exceed by 15,000,000 short tons the outside estimates heretofore made on the coal tonnage for 1899.

The production of 230,835,973 long tons in 1899 was nearly 20,000,000 in excess of that in 1897, and both of these years were banner years in the industry. It is not impossible that the figures for 1899, as estimated, may be somewhat reduced. The fact that the complete returns, and in fact this may be predicted as probable, but even a reduction of 5,000,000 long tons would not amount to 2 per cent of error in the total.

The total value of this enormous production is estimated at \$29,435,412, an increase of over \$1,000,000, or practically 23 per cent over the value of the product in 1898. The part that anthracite coal played in this unprecedented production was an increase from 47,663,975 long tons, or 20.6 per cent of the total, to 52,857,496 long tons, or 22.9 per cent of the total.

Table of Output. The production of coal in 1899 and the estimated output for 1898 is shown in the following table:

Grand totals, 219,574,607 258,529,650. The production and consumption of coal is so closely associated with that of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel that it is well worth while to note what effect the record of 1899 made by these commodities will have upon the mineral production for 1899. The production of pig iron in 1899 was 13,700,000 long tons, against 11,773,374 long tons in 1898. The average price for pig iron in 1899 was about \$18 per ton, making the total value about \$246,600,000, against \$116,557,000 in 1898, when the average price was less than \$10 per ton. This makes an increase of \$130,000,000 and the increase of \$130,000,000 in the value of the coal product makes a total increase of \$181,000,000, which, without any increase in the other mineral production would make the value of the mineral production in 1899 about \$860,000,000.

MINING IN THE BLACK HILLS

Warm Weather Starts Up the Placers and Work in General is Hurrying Along.

DEADWOOD, S. D., April 22.—(Special.)—Warm weather has come to all parts of the Black Hills and there is a general revival of business among the mines in all of the districts. The placer miners have commenced work on a number of creeks and there is reason to expect that the season will be good for this kind of mining. Hill City, Pactola, Silver City and Mystic, in the Central Hills, are busy with this spring. The old Eldorado mine, located three miles east of Hill City, has been purchased by two New York City parties and a very complete shafting plant, with an air drill, has been installed. A double compartment shaft is being sunk to a depth of 500 feet. The company has purchased the old J. R. ten-stamp mill near the mine, which is being repaired to run on ore from the mine. The owners of the Golden Slipper mine, in this same district, are keeping the lower workings pumped and it is expected that the mine will be sold to eastern parties soon.

Good paying lodes are being struck all along the road from Hill City, through Sheridan to Pactola. At this latter camp there are a number of properties that will be opened up this season. The Poisoned Ox and Copper Glance mines, near Pactola, are the best propositions. Minneapolis parties have both of them under bond. There is a mineral ledge of ore about 400 feet in width, which runs north and south through the properties, and good assays of gold, copper and silver have been obtained from a number of openings. James and Archie McCurdy, who reside near these mines, own 100 acres of farm land on Rapid river, under which there is a very rich streak of placer gravel. The pay streak is about six inches thick and it pans from 3 to 10 cents per pan. The owners average \$8 per day working with the pan. At one place, near the creek, five distinct streaks of ore have been uncovered at bedrock level, carrying silver, gold and copper, which can be traced northward 700 feet into the Poisoned Ox and Copper Glance mines. The railroad that is being built from Rapid City to Mystic crosses the farm of these brothers.

J. C. Sherman owns a placer bed 6,000 feet long, about 500 feet wide and 3,000 feet deep, and is very rich. The gravel, which will average 50 cents gold to the cubic yard. He is about to start up a large steam plant, which will elevate the gravel from bedrock to sluice boxes. This plant will earn for its owner \$400 per day. From Pactola west to Silver City there are several belts of ore which carry gold, silver and copper values. Silver City is one of the oldest mining camps in the Central Hills. It is in Oregon, S. D., headed this way. The railroad will make it one of the stations. North of the town about a mile Steve Breyer has opened up a very wide ledge of gold and silver ore. Assays on some pieces of the vein have gone as high as \$300 to the ton in the two metals. A number of Rapid City people have opened the ledge near Silver City. The Highland mine is located north of the Brever property. There is a ton stamp mill on the creek, which has worked quite successfully on portions of the ore. This property is now owned by William Hall of Colorado Springs, and a mining expert from Colorado examined the property this week. It is not a free milling proposition, but the ore will concentrate.

Mystic, a station on the Burlington route, is a live place this spring on account of the striking up of the large ore-treating plant that has just been completed by Indiana parties. Prof. F. H. Long of Chicago has sold to a large eastern syndicate certain secret processes for the extraction of gold and silver values from refractory ores. A fifty-ton plant has been erected on Castle creek and the first shipments of ore have been received. Two carloads of ore arrived the first of the week from the Bald mountain district, in the Northern part of the Black Hills. The property is owned by a number of the owners of the mines in the Silver City and Hornblende districts. It is the intention of this company to enlarge the plant to 100 tons daily capacity this season and to put into practice. Eventually the metals will be put into practice. The company will have a plant that will treat several hundred tons of ore per day. The Omaha Mining company, which was organized a few days ago, is about to complete its plant. It has purchased all of the rights of the Dr. Ogden process for extracting gold from ores. An experimental plant has been in use for some time down near Whitewood creek, seven miles from Deadwood, and enlarged in capacity, and it is proposed to take in custom ores. The Original Hardin mine still continues to ship ore to the Deadwood smelter. Yesterday was paid day, when something like \$44 short tons in 1898, to \$28,572,496 long tons, or 69,430,865 short tons, in 1899, with an increase in value from \$75,414,537 to \$88,122,493, a gain of nearly \$13,000,000. Bituminous, cannel, block and lignite coals show an increase of 47,663,975 long tons, or 20.6 per cent of the total, to 52,857,496 long tons, or 22.9 per cent of the total. There were only three states that did not participate in the general increase. They were Arkansas, Georgia and Idaho. In the former the production was cut down by strikes, which kept some of the largest mines idle a good part of the year. The reduction in Georgia was very small and the entire production of Idaho has no effect on the total. Another interesting and unusual feature of coal production in 1899, was the fact that the price advanced in price, the first instance of this kind in three years.

Table of Output. The production of coal in 1899 and the estimated output for 1898 is shown in the following table:

ON RURAL FREE DELIVERY

Nearly 100,000 Country Homes See Uncle Sam's Postman—Very Successful System. WASHINGTON, April 22.—The credit of rural free delivery belongs almost exclusively to the McKinley administration," said Hon. Perry S. Heath, first assistant postmaster general, tonight. "A movement to broaden the free delivery of the mails was begun by Postmaster General Wamaker under the administration of General Harrison. It took the form of village free delivery and extended, as an experiment, the plan of delivering mails by carrier, as existing in cities of 10,000 population or 40,000 gross postal receipts, to forty or fifty selected villages of less population and smaller postal receipts. The experiment of gold and silver values from refractory ores. A fifty-ton plant has been erected on Castle creek and the first shipments of ore have been received. Two carloads of ore arrived the first of the week from the Bald mountain district, in the Northern part of the Black Hills. The property is owned by a number of the owners of the mines in the Silver City and Hornblende districts. It is the intention of this company to enlarge the plant to 100 tons daily capacity this season and to put into practice. Eventually the metals will be put into practice. The company will have a plant that will treat several hundred tons of ore per day. The Omaha Mining company, which was organized a few days ago, is about to complete its plant. It has purchased all of the rights of the Dr. Ogden process for extracting gold from ores. An experimental plant has been in use for some time down near Whitewood creek, seven miles from Deadwood, and enlarged in capacity, and it is proposed to take in custom ores. The Original Hardin mine still continues to ship ore to the Deadwood smelter. Yesterday was paid day, when something like \$44 short tons in 1898, to \$28,572,496 long tons, or 69,430,865 short tons, in 1899, with an increase in value from \$75,414,537 to \$88,122,493, a gain of nearly \$13,000,000. Bituminous, cannel, block and lignite coals show an increase of 47,663,975 long tons, or 20.6 per cent of the total, to 52,857,496 long tons, or 22.9 per cent of the total. There were only three states that did not participate in the general increase. They were Arkansas, Georgia and Idaho. In the former the production was cut down by strikes, which kept some of the largest mines idle a good part of the year. The reduction in Georgia was very small and the entire production of Idaho has no effect on the total. Another interesting and unusual feature of coal production in 1899, was the fact that the price advanced in price, the first instance of this kind in three years.

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CHARGED WITH FOUR MURDERS

Story Comes to Light in Chicago that Reads Like a Dime Novel. CHICAGO, April 22.—A remarkable sequel to a series of crimes in the Rocky mountain country has come to light here. The Chicago developments are told in an interview by Attorney William J. Cahill, who is in the city in explanation of notices received by the Chicago police asking for the arrest of George H. Wright, alias James S. Weeks, alias T. C. Case, alias Mr. Stevens, a native of Michigan and a graduate of the law department of a university of Ann Arbor, charged with murdering four persons, three in Utah and one in Colorado.

Attorney Cahill says he became acquainted with Wright because they lived at the same Chicago address. Wright, he says, engaged him to go west and gather evidence to defend him on the charge of having murdered a man named Crampton near Guffy, Colo., in January, 1897. Wright then, it is alleged, under the name of Case, decided to Cahill a bank building, a residence, two office buildings and numerous vacant lots in Cripple Creek and Guffy, Colo., besides transferring to him all his stock in various mining enterprises. Cahill says he was in the city at the time of the murder of Crampton, and that he had advanced Cahill on Cahill's traveling expenses, and has not returned to this day.

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Case told Cahill that he was innocent of Crampton's death and that the charge was an effort of enemies and business rivals to ruin him. A circular issued by Sheriff George A. Storrs of Cripple Creek, Utah, in which he had murdered three boys in Utah county in February, 1895, and sank their bodies beneath the lee of Utah lake, the alleged reason of the crime being that the boys claimed to have knowledge of the location of a large and valuable mine, the alleged reason of the crime being that the boys claimed to have knowledge of the location of a large and valuable mine, the alleged reason of the crime being that the boys claimed to have knowledge of the location of a large and valuable mine.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The credit of rural free delivery belongs almost exclusively to the McKinley administration," said Hon. Perry S. Heath, first assistant postmaster general, tonight. "A movement to broaden the free delivery of the mails was begun by Postmaster General Wamaker under the administration of General Harrison. It took the form of village free delivery and extended, as an experiment, the plan of delivering mails by carrier, as existing in cities of 10,000 population or 40,000 gross postal receipts, to forty or fifty selected villages of less population and smaller postal receipts. The experiment of gold and silver values from refractory ores. A fifty-ton plant has been erected on Castle creek and the first shipments of ore have been received. Two carloads of ore arrived the first of the week from the Bald mountain district, in the Northern part of the Black Hills. The property is owned by a number of the owners of the mines in the Silver City and Hornblende districts. It is the intention of this company to enlarge the plant to 100 tons daily capacity this season and to put into practice. Eventually the metals will be put into practice. The company will have a plant that will treat several hundred tons of ore per day. The Omaha Mining company, which was organized a few days ago, is about to complete its plant. It has purchased all of the rights of the Dr. Ogden process for extracting gold from ores. An experimental plant has been in use for some time down near Whitewood creek, seven miles from Deadwood, and enlarged in capacity, and it is proposed to take in custom ores. The Original Hardin mine still continues to ship ore to the Deadwood smelter. Yesterday was paid day, when something like \$44 short tons in 1898, to \$28,572,496 long tons, or 69,430,865 short tons, in 1899, with an increase in value from \$75,414,537 to \$88,122,493, a gain of nearly \$13,000,000. Bituminous, cannel, block and lignite coals show an increase of 47,663,975 long tons, or 20.6 per cent of the total, to 52,857,496 long tons, or 22.9 per cent of the total. There were only three states that did not participate in the general increase. They were Arkansas, Georgia and Idaho. In the former the production was cut down by strikes, which kept some of the largest mines idle a good part of the year. The reduction in Georgia was very small and the entire production of Idaho has no effect on the total. Another interesting and unusual feature of coal production in 1899, was the fact that the price advanced in price, the first instance of this kind in three years.

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