COLORADO'S MINING KING.

D. H. MOFFAT ON THE NEW GOLD AND SILVER REGIONS.

He Discusses the Changes in Mining and Predicts a Golden Era—He Tells Something of the Wonders of Mining Life.

(Copyrighted, 1896, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

Denver, Col., Aug. 1.—I have had an interview here with the mining king of the United States. His name is David H. Moffat. He is said to be worth twenty millions of dollars. He has made fortunes out of gold and silver mining, and he has to-day some of the most valuable properties of the West. He sold a gold mine last month to parties in France which netted himself and his partners a cool million in cash. His silver mines at Leadville have miles of underground tunnels, and he is the largest owner of stock in the big cyanide mill at Florence, which turns out for him every month a gold brick worth $40,000. He is developing valuable mines to-day in different parts of Colorado, and among his great works at Cripple Creek is an immense tunnel, which he is forcing through a mountain, in which vast quantities of gold are supposed to be. Mr. Moffat was for years president of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad. He built the Denver Pacific from Cheyenne to Denver. He now practically owns the Florence & Cripple Creek road, which does an enormous business, and he is also the president of one of the biggest banks in the West.

This is the First National bank of Denver, which has a capital of only $500,000 but whose deposits amount to more than $6,000,000. It is now thirty years since Mr. Moffat entered the bank as cashier, and to-day, I venture, he considers himself more of a banker than a miner. He began his business career in a bank. He was 15 years old at the time, and started life as a messenger boy in the New York Exchange bank, of New York. A year later he went to Iowa to act as bank clerk in Des Moines, and at 20 he was cashier of the Bank of Nebraska, at Omaha. This was just about the time of the Pike's peak gold fever, and Dave Moffat got a wagon and a mule and came out here to find his fortune. Denver was then a small frontier town, and Moffat started a book and stationery store, selling, as an old miner told me the other day, an envelope, a sheet of paper and a stamp for a nickel. A few years later the First National bank was founded, and Moffat was made its cashier. He soon became president, and his connection with the business of the bank has so increased that it now amounts to more than $[illegible] a year.

D. H. MOFFAT, THE MINING KING.

How Dave Moffat Looks.

It was at the bank that I met Mr. Moffat. He watches over the interests of the institution very carefully, and you may find him in the president's office any day between 9 and 3. I passed through a room of business men, with tellers behind the windows of the bank proper, and asking a policeman in uniform, standing by the clerk's desk where I might find Mr. Moffat, he pointed to a door at a little aside at the back of the building, and I walked in and right in. There was a big office, big enough for watch dog about the safe of the millionaire. I looked at the door, entered and presented a letter of introduction which I had from Senator Teller to a tall, well formed man of about 50 years of age, who sat at the desk within. He looked more like a New York club man than a Western mine owner, and I could hardly associate his clear, very complexioned, bright eyed face with the rugged faces with that of some of the miners I saw and strongest capitalists of the West. It was, however, Dave H. Moffat. He asked me to be seated, and chatted with me for an hour about gold and silver and the wonderful mining development which is going on throughout the West.

Dave H. Moffat is perhaps as much about mines as any man in the West. He is a miner, but he is the owner of being a prospector or of going out into the mines and working them. He is more a banker rather than a miner. He is the shrewd financial adviser of many who have the prospectors and miners, and he is the banker and holder of many of the mines. He is a capitalist as well as a miner. He has made his money in mining, and he has put into it his money and his time. He has worked his way up from the bottom, and he knows the business from the ground up. He is a man who has written books on mining and who has put into practical shape his knowledge of the business. He is a man who has made his fortune in mining, and who has put into it the money he has made in other lines of business. He is a man who has put into it the money he has made in other lines of business. He is a man who has put into it the money he has made in other lines of business. He is a man