

COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA, MINES

Except to a very few adventurous spirits, the enormously rich quartz and placer gold fields of Colombia, particularly in the department of Antioquia, are comparatively unknown. Heretofore capital and prospectors have been deterred in their search for gold there by the fallacious, though popular stories of fever and disease-stricken districts (of which some few undoubtedly exist) and more, however, by the past frequent recurrences of revolution and unstable government. These difficulties once removed from the minds of searchers after gold, there will be a rush to Colombia, such as South Africa, Australia, California or Alaska has never known. But, with the election of Gen. Rafael Reyes to the presidency, a man of wealth, education, force and unusual ability, and with such advisers as he will surround himself with, in my opinion another revolution is as remote a possibility as in the United States.

Colombia is undoubtedly about the richest country in precious metals in the world. Its wide fields have been scratched by the Indians for centuries, further worked by the Spanish invaders, and they, expert miners as they were, even with their cruder methods, looked to it as the "Dorado," and even with the barest of scratching (a bareness which must be seen to be appreciated) Colombia was, up to 1896, the third gold producing country in the world. In 1895-96 a short revolution occurred, and in 1898 another—probably the most disastrous in the history of the country—and the production fell off, and it has only been since 1902 that serious attention has again been called to Colombia, but it is confidently expected that 1905 to 1906 will again see Colombia back in the old place, and, if searchers for gold are wise, she may be the first of the gold-producing countries of the world.

Ground sluicing is carried on extensively by the natives, who either own the ground themselves, or are working on other people's ground and paying a small royalty to the owners, but I have seen many ground sluices being worked by two, three or four natives, the taking out as much as ten pounds of gold in a cleanup, which they do about every month. The "batea" (wooden gold-pau), is their principal implement, naturally and crow-bar plays a most prominent part in their work.

The labor there is cheap, it is customary in that section of country that the men are fed by the company. The average man's wages do not exceed (food and all) 80 cents a day. They are fairly skilled and at times abundant, though I've heard the plan discussed by various companies there of importing labor from nearby islands, but it has never yet come to that. However, should many foreign companies invade that country, naturally, then labor would become scarce, and we would be compelled to look to other islands for the supply. There are no unions. Strikes are unknown, and the only interruptions to work are due to "Festas" (holidays). Rains do not interfere.

Deposits along the River Nechi, which is in the department (state) of Antioquia, there are placers now

being worked with monitors, and the gravel has never been known to pay less than 40 cents per cubic yard. I, myself, have operated on the same river, and which deposits have always averaged 65 cents per cubic yard.

The River Nechi is about 300 miles south of the seaports Cartagena and Barranquilla. It is a navigable stream for stern wheel steamers, emptying into the Cauca, itself a tributary of the mighty Magdalena.

The properties are covered with auriferous deposits of a thickness which runs from 9 to 25 feet, and are found reaching to 35 feet. The top layer consists of red cement, under which is a black streak of river sand. The balance down to bedrock consists of a gray gravel and loose gold. Timber of all kinds is more than plentiful, particularly cedar and mahogany.

The town of Zaragoza, at which place all steamers from Barranquilla terminate, has a population of about 3,000, was founded in 1580 and has been a more or less important mining town ever since. Up to within a few years, however, the many gold deposits have only been worked by primitive methods, but now that aggressive foreign capital is coming in, startling results may soon be expected. Those familiar with the California deposits say that the Antioquian placers, in general character of the gravel and gold, are representative of the great California bonanzas of 50 years ago, but promise more phenomenal results.

Title is held in fee simple by deed from owner in whose family the property has been held for years. Taxes are nominal.—Arthur Davi-dow in Mining World.

Another Story by Norton.

Roy E. Norton one of the owners of the Goleonda mine, has another story this month in the Red Book, published at Chicago. "Old Bill Slocum" again appears as the central character in the story, which is entitled "Bill Slocum, Honest Smuggler." The tale is a corking one, and the illustrations are unique, in that they are by a Japanese artist. The scene of the story is laid in Japan.

Our spring stock is arriving every day now. Come in and see new lines at Johns' store.

TIMBER LAND, ACT JUNE 3, 1878.—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office, La Grande, Oregon, February 6, 1905. Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land states by act of August 4, 1892.

ELVA MILLS, of Sumpter, County of Baker, State of Oregon, has this day filed in this office her sworn statement No. 1279, for the purchase of the NW 1/4 of Section No. 13 in Township No. 9, South, Range No. 38 E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish her claim to said land before Chas. H. Chance, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Sumpter, Oregon, on Wednesday, the 3rd day of May 1905.

She names as witnesses: Walter J. Mills, Cato J. Johns, Byron Weatherford and Margaret Johns, all of Sumpter, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 3rd day of May, 1905.

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MARGARET JOHNS, of Sumpter, county of Baker, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office her sworn statement No.

1276, for the purchase of the SE 1/4 of Section No. 12, in township No. 9 south, range No. 38, E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish her claim to said land before Chas. H. Chance, U. S. Commissioner, at his office in Sumpter, Oregon, on Wednesday, the 3rd day of May 1905.

She names as witnesses: Cato J. Johns, Walter J. Mills, Elva Mills, Byron Weatherford, all of Sumpter, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 3rd day of May, 1905.

E. W. DAVIS, Register.

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CATO J. JOHNS, of Sumpter, county of Baker, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 1277, for the purchase of the NE 1/4 of Section No. 12, in Township No. 9 South, Range No. 38, E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Charles H. Chance, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Sumpter, Oregon, on Wednesday, the 3rd day of May, 1905.

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WALTER J. MILLS, of Sumpter, county of Baker, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 1278, for the purchase of the NW 1/4 of Section No. 12 in T. No. 9 south, R. No. 38 E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Charles H. Chance, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Sumpter, Oregon, Wednesday, the 3rd day of May, 1905.

He names as witnesses: Cato J. Johns, Margaret Johns, Elva Mills, Byron Weatherford, all of Sumpter, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 3rd day of May, 1905.

E. W. DAVIS, Register.

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