

GIVE ADVANCED FIGURES ON THIS YEAR'S MINING

(Continued from page 2.)

however, take time, so that a general immediate improvement can not be expected.

Mineral Production, 1920.

Though the mining industry of Alaska as a whole suffered a serious depression in 1920, yet the value of the total mineral output was greater than in 1919, chiefly because of the great increase in the production of copper, largely to be credited to the four large copper mines in the Territory.

The value of the total mineral production of Alaska was \$19,620,913 in 1919 and about \$22,070,000 in 1920. The output of the gold placers has decreased, but that of the gold lode mines has been maintained.

Value of mineral production in Alaska in 1919 and 1920.

	1919	1920
Gold	\$9,426,032	\$8,000,000
Copper	8,783,063	12,400,000
Silver	705,273	900,000
Platinum and allied metals ..	73,663	80,000
Tin	73,400	20,000
Lead	72,822	142,000
Coal	343,547	380,000
Petroleum, marble, gypsum, quicksilver, etc.	143,113	148,000

Total \$19,620,913 \$22,070,000

Important Mining Events.

One of the most encouraging features of the year's mining was the systematic development of a large auriferous lode in the Nixon Fork (McGrath) district in the upper Kuskokwim Valley. This ore body gives promise of being valuable, and if it so proves it will assure the beginning of a lode-mining industry in this remote region. Auriferous mineralization appears to be rather widely distributed in the Kuskokwim Basin, a region which has been relatively little prospected. The gold of this region occurs in association with granitic rocks, which are intruded into limestone and other little altered sedimentary rocks. In general the strong mineralization appears to be more localized than that in the schist areas of the upper Yukon. Such conditions are favorable to the occurrence of commercial ore bodies.

The discovery of this lode and the continued success of the Candle Creek dredge, near McGrath, has attracted attention to the Kuskokwim Basin, and there has consequently been more prospecting in this province than in any other part of inland Alaska. Especially noteworthy has been the considerable search and tests for dredging ground in the Kuskokwim and immediately adjacent region during the last two years.

Though lode mining in southeastern Alaska is still chiefly confined to the low-grade ores of Juneau, whose development is most seriously handicapped by existing conditions, yet there was in 1920 a marked increase in the prospecting for auriferous lodes in this field, notably in the Sitka district. Some promising discoveries of auriferous quartz were made, on Chicago Island.

Important also are the activities in the Willow Creek district, tributary to the Government railroad, directed to the consolidation of some auriferous lode properties and their development on a large scale.

One of the most important events of the year was the beginning of systematic underground exploration of the Matanuska coal field under the auspices of the Navy Department. This exploration has for its purpose the development of high-grade coal for the use of the Navy, but incidentally it will afford a thorough test of the commercial possibilities of the field.

The enactment of the oil-leasing law in February, 1920, together with the world-wide search for petroleum, has again attracted public attention to the oil in Alaska. There has not yet been sufficient time to drill under the new regime, but more than half a million acres of land has been staked on the assumption that it is oil bearing. The evidence in hand indicates that though a part of this land is well worth drilling many locations, as during all oil booms, will be found worthless. There is, however, very good prospect of developing producing wells in Alaska.

Placer Mining

During 41 years Alaska has produced gold to the value of \$320,000,000, of which \$221,642,000 is to be credited to her placer mines. For reasons already stated there was less placer mining in 1920 than in 1919, and the outlook under present economic conditions for a revival of the industry as a whole is not hopeful. In the following table a comparison is made between the placer-mining industry in 1919 and 1920.

Placer Mining in Alaska in 1919 and 1920

	Summer	Winter	Min-ers	Min-ers	Value of output
1919	466	2177	88	613	\$4,970,000
1920	370	1830	36	126	\$3,630,000

Decrease in 1920 96 347 52 488 1,340,000

In the following table the production of placer gold in Alaska in 1919 and 1920 is allocated by regions. This table shows clearly that the decrease in output is due chiefly to the decline in the production of the more isolated districts.

Estimated Value of Placer Gold Mined in Alaska in 1919 and 1920

Region	1919
Cook inlet and Southeastern Alaska	1919
Pacific Coast region	\$30,000

BASKETBALL TEAM HAS STIFF COMPETITORS THIS SEASON

(Continued from Page 1)

athletes and was a four letter man at his prep school. He was captain of the baseball team and was on the basketball, hockey and football teams. He is taking Course XIV, Electrochemistry, at the Institute.

APPENDICITIS HITS POPULAR JUNIORS

Appendicitis took a fancy to the Junior class at the Institute during the holidays, picking out two fraternity men of the Class of 1922 as its victims. They are Jean Lepicier, better known as "Peachy", and Dexter N. Shaw.

Lepicier is a member of Delta Tau Delta and came to the Institute from Paris, France. He was stricken very suddenly with acute appendicitis on December 29, after having attended a dance the night before. He has been operated on and is reported as doing as well as can be expected. He is a student in Course XI, mechanical engineering.

NEEDS MANAGER

Tennis Team Has Tentative Schedule Prepared

One position on the M. I. T. A. A. that of tennis manager, is at present vacant. Due to a ruling of the M. I. T. A. A. a junior or a senior only may be manager of the team. With this vacancy, which must of necessity be filled immediately, candidates will be called out on January 5th reporting in Room 10-275 at 5 o'clock.

With the varsity material which was left over from last year, there is no doubt but what the team will make a good showing against its various competitors. A tentative schedule for the varsity has been prepared and is as follows:

- April 30—Williams.
- May 4—Worcester Polytechnic.
- May 6—Dartmouth.
- May 14—Springfield.
- May 20—Harvard.
- May 21—Yale.

The management is at present preparing a trip, the first leg of which will be to New York to play Columbia. Thence to Princeton from which the team will proceed to Philadelphia to play the strong University of Pennsylvania team.

Copper River Basin	185,000
Cook Inlet and Susitna region	110,000
Yukon Basin	2,910,000
Kuskokwim Basin	350,000
Seward Peninsula	1,360,000
Kobuk region	25,000

Region	1920
Southeastern Alaska and Pacific Coast region	\$10,000
Copper River Basin	175,000
Cook Inlet and Susitna region	65,000
Yukon Basin	1,875,000
Kuskokwim Basin	400,000
Seward Peninsula	1,240,000
Kobuk region	15,000

\$3,630,000

Gold dredging has declined relatively less than other forms of placer mining, partly because some of the dredges are working very rich ground, partly because the investments in this form of industry are so large that many companies continue operations even with very small profits. In 1919 there were 28 dredges operated in Alaska, which produced gold worth \$1,360,000; in 1920 there were 22 dredges operated, which produced gold worth about \$1,020,000. The relative efficiency of gold dredging compared with other methods of placer mining is illustrated by the fact that in 1920 about 300 men, or 16 per cent of the total placer miners employed

in Alaska, produced \$1,020,000, or 28 per cent of the total placer gold mined.

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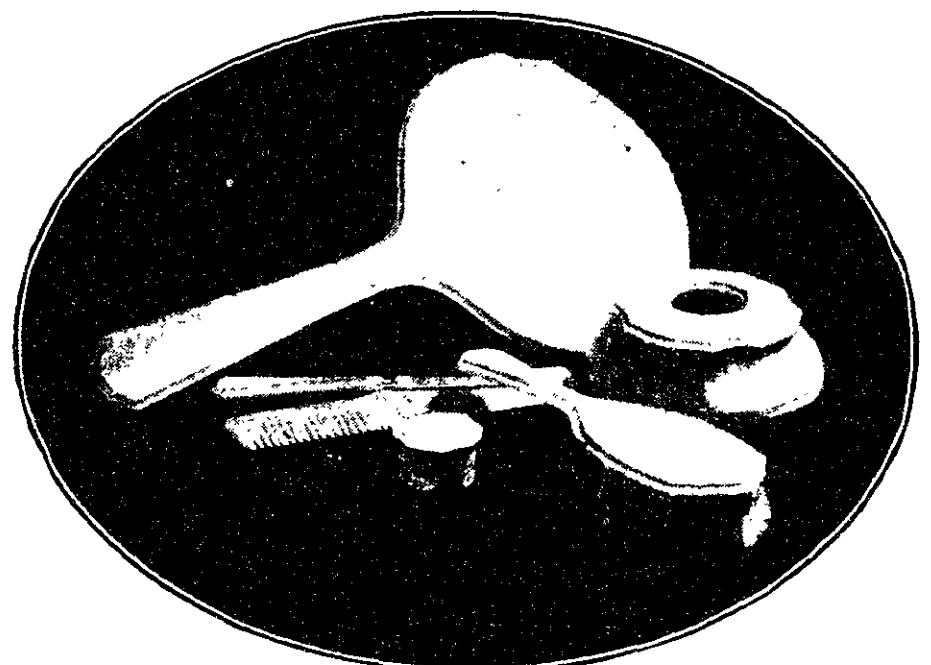


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