

AN ELDORADO.

LEADVILLE THE CENTER OF THE MINING INDUSTRY.

Millions Have Been Produced— Strange Tales of the Finding of Unexpected Fortunes by Impetuous Prospectors.

LEADVILLE, writes Frank G. Carpenter in the Washington Star, is one of the great treasure vaults of the United States. Within the past seventeen years Uncle Sam has drawn upon it to the extent of more than \$200,000,000, but it has to-day more than one hundred producing mines and its undeveloped riches are incalculable. It contains some of the richest gold and some of the most wonderful silver mines of the world. The territory surrounding it is being reexplored, new mines are being opened and some of the old mines are so wonderful in their production that their owners do not want them mentioned in the newspapers. Such a one is the "Little Johnny," which now has an output of \$10,000 worth of gold a day, and which, I am told, could be made to produce, if the owners wished it, \$50,000 in gold daily for years to come. In one of the banks there is about a peck of specimens of the pure gold which has been taken from it. The gold in the vein is in the shape of ordinary gold ore, but in places there are flakes and scales of pure metal, and every now and then a rich pocket is struck in which it lies in lumps. The daily output of the "Little Johnny" is now about 200 tons, and the average value of the ore is nearly \$50. There are now six shafts on the property, the two deepest of which are 750 feet. Gold is struck about 300 feet below the ground, and it is said that the whole area of more than 100 acres is mineralized.

Leadville is one of the greatest silver camps of the United States. Millions upon millions have been taken out of the earth back of the city and scattered broadcast over the world. The city itself is underlain with precious minerals. About a year ago Major A. V. Bohn struck a silver mine



THE FIRST HOUSE IN CREEDE.

on the edge of the town, the ore of which averaged 100 ounces of silver, with now and then a jump to as high as from 800 to 1000 ounces. It has been found that this vein extends right under Leadville, and it is question now as to whether Leadville can hold its silver or whether it is to go to others. If Leadville gets it it will be the richest city in the world, and single pockets of ore under the streets will probably pay more than the city debt and leave a big surplus in the treasury. Leadville claims that the streets were dedicated to the municipality, and that all that is under them belongs to the city. The original owners of the land are now claiming that they gave the ground only as a right of way, and so the question hangs in the courts.

Many of the silver mines of Leadville are so rich that they can be worked at a profit, notwithstanding the low price of silver. In the Moffat and Smith mines there are 550 men on the pay roll as miners, and it takes about three men to handle and care for the ore to each miner. There are 8000 men at work in the Leadville mining district, and laborers get from \$2 to \$3 per day. The Wolfson mine has recently struck an immense body of ore, neither end of which has yet been found, but in which 108,000 tons of silver-bearing rock have been blocked out. This, it is estimated, will pay at least \$8 a ton above all expenses of



LEADVILLE'S ORE TEAMS.

handling and smelting, making the ore in this mine alone worth at least \$864,000. Mr. Moffat told me in my interview that his best mine had been the "Maid of Erin," for which he had paid about \$100,000, and out of which himself and his partners had made \$5,000,000. This mine is still being worked, and there are other great silver mines here which are shipping ore.

I paid a visit the other day to this five-million-dollar maiden. The Maid of Erin silver mine lies on the hills just above Leadville. It is surrounded by mountains of waste rock, and it has immense frame buildings, something like those of a great factory. A look at it gives you some idea of the enormous cost of silver mining. The engines which move its machinery have ten great boilers, and its furnaces are so large that ten men are constantly shoveling coal into them to keep the fires alive. They eat up from twenty-five to thirty tons of coal a day, and the coal bill for the furnace alone amounts to \$150 daily. Two hundred

dollars a day is paid for wages to the miners, and the machinery is of the most costly description. After dressing in miners' clothes I went down into the shaft. Stepping on the elevator I was dropped hundreds of feet, past tunnel after tunnel running off into the vein, until I was at last more than a thousand feet below the surface.

Running off from the shafts are these great pipes or tunnels, out of which have been cut the silver and lead. They are lighted by electricity. They are driven this way and that, so that they form a labyrinth like the avenues in the Catacombs of Rome. You could lose yourself in this mine. It connects with the great Henrietta mine, and you might wander about from tunnel to tunnel without finding your way to the shaft.

This is a wet mine, and it takes an enormous amount of money to wall it with timbers. Many such mines contain forests of great logs, and it is estimated that there is more than \$7,000,000 worth of lumber and timber used



MAID OF ERIN MINE, LEADVILLE.

in the mines of Leadville alone. Each of these tunnels is roofed and walled with big pine logs, and the stops, or caves, cut away from the tunnels in order to get the silver out, have to be almost filled with timbers, for fear their sides may cave in. No one who has not gone through a great mine can appreciate the amount of water which flows into it. In the bottom of the Maid of Erin streams of ice-cold water flow through the tunnels like so many mountain brooks.

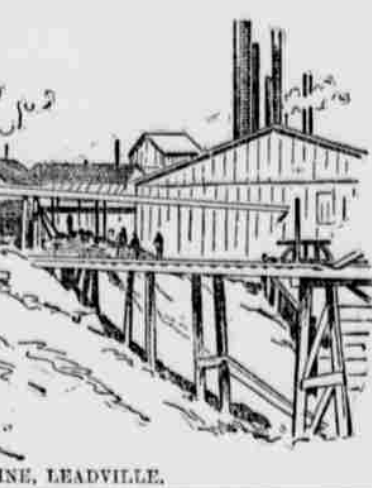
Overhead are pipes for steam and for compressed air to run the drills. There is a railroad track in each tunnel and boards upon which you can walk to keep out of the stream. The water is taken out of the mine by enormous steam pumps. Nine hundred feet below the surface of the ground I found an immense engine room, a large part of the machinery of which consisted of pumps, which work away there day and night. They carry out of the mine 900 gallons of water a minute, or 54,000 gallons an hour. If they were stopped for two or three hours the mine would be filled, and it would cost a fortune to open it again.

Standing on the dump of the Maid of Erin you get a good view of Leadville. It lies in a nest in the Rockies and it is surrounded by some of the most picturesque scenery of the United States. Imagine an amphitheatre, the walls of which are snow-capped mountains, and in one side of the arena there is a mass of dust colored houses. Let there be buildings of red and yellow brick, log cabins covered with dust, wooden shanties and comfortable homes, all dusted with yellow, put mountains of broken rock here and there through it and let immense frame buildings, which mark the sites of smelters, show out below it, and you have a faint idea of the city of Leadville as it looks to-day. It is a city of schools and churches, a city of wealth and manufactures, a town of gold and silver and lead. It contains about 12,000 people, but it does more business than a town of three times the size in the East. It is the highest town of its size in the United States.

There are parts of it which are alive with brimstone and when you drive in the direction of the smelters you have to cover your nostrils and mouth with your handkerchief in order to be able to breathe. The brimstone comes from

fully as to-day, and science has never done so much to make the production of gold and silver cheap. Take the Creede camp, which has made so many men rich. Creede was a poor prospector when he discovered the "Holy Moses," which, in 1892, netted more than one and one-half million dollars. Creede sold it for \$10,000. He made other strikes, and he has now an income of a thousand dollars a day. Still he tramped the mountains for twenty years before he made his big strike, and he was fifty before he became a millionaire. He made the bulk of his fortune out of the Amethyst and other mines, and the great receipts of the Holy Moses went to Dave Moffat and his partners. A man named Renniger was riding through the mountains about Creede on one of these little donkeys known as burros. He had another burro to carry his pick and prospecting tools. He was a grub staker, that is, some man had furnished him tools and groceries for a certain time with the understanding that the capitalist should have half what he discovered. One night, when Renniger camped, his burros strayed away, and he spent days in finding them. When he did find them he looked at the rocks upon which they were standing and saw that they contained silver. He located on that spot what is known as the "Last Chance" mine, which paid \$250,000 in dividends from its surface production, and which has produced fortunes. Near this mine Creede, now a partner of Moffat, discovered the "Amethyst" mine, which, in 1892, produced \$1,400,000 worth of silver, and which is now capitalized at \$5,000,000. This mine now belongs to Senator Wolcott and others. It is very rich.

carried all over the world. Two million and a half dollars' worth of gold were taken out of this gulch in 1860. The men who panned it noted that there was a heavy black sand mixed with the gold, but they did not realize that this sand was carbonate of lead until years afterward, when it was discovered that the lead was rich with silver and the mining began which made Leadville one of the greatest silver camps of the world. One of the first big silver mines opened was discovered by the Gallagher Brothers, two poor Irishmen, and another was opened by Fryer, from whom Fryer Hill, one of the most famous mining districts here, was named. Fryer lived in a squatty little cabin on the side of the hill, and he was looked upon by his neighbors as utterly worthless and good for nothing. One day he went into the pines back of his cabin and dug a hole. He struck ore almost at the grass roots, and opened up a mine which yielded more than a million dollars.



A CAR OF SILVER ROCK.

Another famous mine was known as "Dead Man's Claim," and the man who acted as grave digger on a certain occasion became its owner. A well-known miner had died, and his friends, who wanted to give him a good send-off into the other world, hired a man to dig his grave for \$20. It was in the midst of the winter. There were ten feet of snow on the ground, and the grave had to go six feet below that. In order to keep the deceased in proper condition until the grave was dug he was laid away in the snow for the time. Nothing was heard of the grave digger for three days, and then the boys, wishing to carry out the remainder of the funeral, went out to see him. They found him digging away with all his might, but they found also that he had put up the stakes and gone through the ceremonies which gave him a miner's claim to all the land about the grave. In going down into the earth he had struck pay ore, and the rock which he got out was worth about \$60 a ton. The mourners at once staked out claims adjoining his, and the deceased was forgotten. He remained in the snow bank until the spring sun thawed him out, when he was awarded an ordinary burial in another part of the camp. Mining has never been done so care-



A CAR OF SILVER ROCK.

fully as to-day, and science has never done so much to make the production of gold and silver cheap. Take the Creede camp, which has made so many men rich. Creede was a poor prospector when he discovered the "Holy Moses," which, in 1892, netted more than one and one-half million dollars. Creede sold it for \$10,000. He made other strikes, and he has now an income of a thousand dollars a day. Still he tramped the mountains for twenty years before he made his big strike, and he was fifty before he became a millionaire. He made the bulk of his fortune out of the Amethyst and other mines, and the great receipts of the Holy Moses went to Dave Moffat and his partners. A man named Renniger was riding through the mountains about Creede on one of these little donkeys known as burros. He had another burro to carry his pick and prospecting tools. He was a grub staker, that is, some man had furnished him tools and groceries for a certain time with the understanding that the capitalist should have half what he discovered. One night, when Renniger camped, his burros strayed away, and he spent days in finding them. When he did find them he looked at the rocks upon which they were standing and saw that they contained silver. He located on that spot what is known as the "Last Chance" mine, which paid \$250,000 in dividends from its surface production, and which has produced fortunes. Near this mine Creede, now a partner of Moffat, discovered the "Amethyst" mine, which, in 1892, produced \$1,400,000 worth of silver, and which is now capitalized at \$5,000,000. This mine now belongs to Senator Wolcott and others. It is very rich.

Not far from Leadville is the great mining camp known as Aspen. It is in Pitkin County, out of which has been dug more than \$40,000,000 worth of silver ore. Aspen produced, in 1891, \$10,000,000 worth of silver. It is situated on an enormous silver lode, which is said to be from eight to twelve miles long, and which, before silver dropped, was producing the white metal at the rate of \$1,000,000 a month. At Aspen is the famous Mollie Gibson silver mine, the average ore of which is worth \$600 a ton, and of which single car loads of ore have netted more than \$60,000. There is one mine at Aspen which has taken out more than \$7,000,000 from an area of about half an acre of ground, the works of the mine going down nearly 1700 feet below the surface.

A CYCLING PHENOMENON.

The Remarkable Performance of a Lady of Denver.

Among the women of pluck and energy in Denver is a dainty little lady, Mrs. Rhinehart, who is surprising the world at large by her wonderful exploits upon the wheel. Mrs. Rhinehart is the wife of one of Denver's leading photographers. She is a native of California, having lived in Colorado but five years. On September 20, 1895, Mrs. Rhinehart took her first ride, and, finding that she enjoyed it, she invested in a wheel. December 14 she made her first century, and when April arrived she had ridden three centuries, and, in company with her husband, had toured old Mexico upon her wheel. Up to the present date Mrs. Rhinehart has ridden forty-four centuries in all, and during July gained a world-wide fame by riding ten centuries in ten consecutive days. She followed that July 22 with a double century, which she accomplished in twenty hours and twenty minutes, riding the last forty miles in darkness, mud and rain. Feeling confident that



MRS. RHINEHART.

she could lower her record for 200 miles, Mrs. Rhinehart started out on the morning of August 7 at 3.25 and in seven hours and fifty minutes covered a distance of 102 miles. After resting thirty minutes she started once more, and accomplished the second 102 miles in nine hours and forty-five minutes, making the entire 204 miles in seventeen hours and thirty-five minutes. Mrs. Rhinehart's record is one that is not equaled by many male cyclists, and probably by no lady rider in the country. She rides purely for pleasure. She has never cared to break any record and has refused to enter contests. She is an easy, graceful rider, averaging thirteen miles an hour, coming out fresh and untired at the end of trips that few could endure. Her fastest riding is always done near the finish. When she began riding Mrs. Rhinehart was an invalid. She is now the picture of health, and laughs most heartily over the dismal prediction that she is killing herself riding. She is a slight young woman, with large brown eyes, golden hair, and is a perfect gypsy in color. Her riding costume is a short divided skirt, sweater, golf hose and low shoes. During her long rides she is particular that her clothing shall be very loose, so that every muscle may have full play.

Tricks of the Rifle.

A well-known rifle shot says: "It is not generally known that an orange hit in the exact center by a rifle ball will vanish at once from sight. Such, however, is the fact, and that is my way of making an orange disappear—shooting it through the center, which scatters it into such infinitesimal pieces that it is at once lost to sight."

Tired of Frowning.



Mr. Killum (the butcher)—"That bill must be paid, sir; it's been running too long now."
Mr. Hardup—"Well, s-s-say, c-o-o-ouldn't you let it stand awhile?"
New York Herald.

MODES OF THE DAY.

LATE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD OF FASHION.

Fashionable Shapes and Colors in Millinery—Broad Hat of White Crinoline—Broadcloth and Braiding—A New Veil.

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ARGE hats are very general, and the generality of these are wider from side to side, and rather shallow in front, and the back is invariably turned up

back and the crown, and should be high and stiff.—Home Queen.

BROADCLOTH OR LADIES' CLOTH.

Broadcloth or ladies' cloth is always in fashion when braiding is revived, and, as has been already stated, braiding is very largely to be used. Even on velvet and camel-hair serges, there are rows of braiding, while the smooth cloths are fairly covered with it. From \$1.50 upwards ladies' cloth can be bought, which is wide, and if well sponged, is a most satisfactory material; but in buying any of these smooth cloths it is well to choose too heavy a weight, particularly if the



BECOMING FALL CAPE.

and filled in with flowers or ribbon bows. Of the hats in quiet tones, black and white is extremely fashionable, the shape either in white rice straw, or chip, bound with black velvet, stretched quite tight in the old-fashioned style, or a dead white fancy

skirt is to be braided; weight does not mean warmth in cloth or woolen materials, and that we have only learned, many of us, through hard experience. In coats and tight-fitting waists the smooth cloths are more becoming than the rough ones, for they seem to fill the figure better, probably on account of being more closely woven. But this year it is not safe to say arbitrarily that either one is the only possible material. All the different shades of blue, brown, green and gray, besides black, are fashionable, but black leads all in the smooth cloths. In the mixed cloths there is a pepper and-salt combination which is immensely fashionable, but not becoming to everybody, as it really has a gray shade which needs a pink and white complexion to bear well. This last material for hard wear is simply unsurpassable, and is being used by a great many women for both bicycling and shopping, made in one jacket-waist with two skirts, one short and one long—really two gowns out of one.—Harper's Bazar.

NEW STYLES IN PETTICOATS.

The petticoat of lawn, cambrie or batiste, which for a while has been rather under a cloud, has come back to fashionable favor, and that this should be carefully chosen to harmonize with all else that is worn is proof of the growing thought and taste of modern dress. Some very well dressed women, however, never wear anything but a



HANDSOME WAIST FOR CONCERT OR PARTY.

edge with narrow velvet binding, and one large cluster of tall black plumes at the side. More becoming is the broad white crinoline hat shown herewith; this with an edge of fancy black and white crinoline. The brim may be curved or bent, to suit the wearer, but hats are worn quite straight and very forward, and the back turned up and filled in to meet the small coil of hair.

The hat shown in the accompanying illustration can be kept to black and white, with pink roses at the back; or a white hat is charming with dahias or heliotrope ribbon, a black plume, paste buckle, and band of black velvet round the crown. A black hat with a white edge is also effective, with shot rose and crimson ribbon, black plume, and pink roses; and the style of the trimming can be copied in any of these combinations.

The band round the crown is cut on the bias, and in forming the ribbon loops each end is pieced up separately and tied round with stout cotton or fine wire. The plume is sewn to the

white petticoat of very fine fabric, fearing the effect that the greater thickness of a satin or glace taffetas might have upon the close fit below the waist of the present fashionable skirt. The petticoat of white or colored cotton is best suited to wear under light dresses, with frills or flounces around the bottom.

A MANIA FOR "BUNCHINESS."

Fashion designers seem to be afflicted with a mania for lace, loops, lappets, bows, bouquets and bunchiness. Wherever a fabric can be puffed up or looped up, or wherever there seems to be an excuse for massing in material, there are ruffles and puffs and pompadours gathered together. Of course, it depends much on the artist whether or not these things are beautiful or otherwise. It requires great skill to create really elegant things, even though one may have fine materials to work with.

Ribbon is used as a trim on this fall.