

occurred until 1893, when a low level of 18,360 fine oz. was reached. Then the introduction of lode mining resulted in a rapidly increasing production until 1902, when previous records were surpassed by an output of more than 288,000 fine oz. With the exception of the maximum output of 297,459 fine oz. in 1913, the record of 1902 has not since been equalled. Though the bulk of the gold obtained in the Cordilleran region has been derived from the placer deposits of the central portion of the region from the Klondike on the north almost to the international boundary on the south, yet a large amount, averaging 178,039 fine oz. between 1913 and 1921, was obtained by lode mining, largely of the copper-gold ores of the Rossland and Yale boundary districts. The metals recovered from the Rossland ores are gold, silver and copper, with gold the most important. The more important copper-gold mines are owned and operated by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of Trail. The copper concentrates of the Britannia mine also contain gold, as does the blister copper made at Anyox. The output of gold in British Columbia has been in part maintained by the successful operation of the Premier silver mine on the Portland canal, while the Nickel Plate property, operated by the Hedley Gold Mining Co., has been a consistent producer of gold bullion as well as arsenical gold concentrates, which are exported to the United States for treatment.

World's Production.—A sketch of the development of the gold-mining industry since the discovery of America may take the form of a reference to four successive periods. During the first period, extending from 1493 to 1760, the annual production averaged nearly 337,000 fine oz. The placer mining of Brazil and Colombia swelled the average output of the last 60 years of the period to about 606,000 fine oz. per year.

The production of Russia from placer mining was a considerable factor in the next period, extending from 1761 to 1840, that country retaining first rank among the world's producers until 1837. The annual average production during the period was 565,500 fine oz.

The third period, extending from 1841 to 1890, was notable for the remarkable discoveries of gold in California and Australia in 1848 and 1851 respectively. The annual average during the 50 years was 4,937,000 fine oz. For the first decade the average was 1,761,000 fine oz. and for the second 6,448,000, while the last decade shaded off to 5,201,000. The production of the period was contributed chiefly by the United States, Australia and Russia.

In the fourth period, extending from 1891 to the present time, the outstanding features were the entry of South Africa as an important and then as the leading producer, and the phenomenal increase in the output of most of the gold-producing countries through the introduction of the cyanide process. The output was 6,320,000 fine oz. in 1891, and a steady increase was recorded until 1915, when a maximum of 22,737,000 fine oz. was produced. Thereafter the great increase in wages and in the other costs of production of an article of fixed value brought about a steady decline to a minimum production of 15,451,945 fine oz. in 1922, increased to 17,790,597 fine oz. in 1923, to 19,025,942 in 1925 and to 19,280,217 in 1926.

In 1926 the world's chief producers were the Union of South Africa, with a production of 9,954,761 fine oz., or 51.6 p.c., the United States, producing 2,238,616 fine oz., or 11.6 p.c., and Canada, producing 1,754,228 fine oz., or 9.1 p.c.

For detailed statistics of the gold production of the world for 1925 and 1926 see Table 18.