

AREA AND RESOURCES.

The State of Nevada extends from the thirty-seventh to the forty-second degree of north latitude, and from the thirty-eighth to the forty-third degree of longitude, west from Washington. It comprises within its present limits an area of about 81,539 square miles, or 52,181,960 acres, 832,000 of which are covered by the water of the various lakes in this State, leaving a total land area of 51,352,960 acres. By an Act of Congress, approved May 5th, 1866, there was added to this State on the east all the territory lying between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth degrees of longitude west from Washington, and extending from the thirty-seventh to the forty-third degrees of north latitude, embracing 18,000 square miles, or 11,520,000 acres. The same act contained a further enlargement of the boundaries of the State, contingent upon the action of the Legislature. Notwithstanding the mountainous and broken character of this area, there is a considerable portion of it agricultural land of good quality, which, under proper cultivation—irrigation being required in certain localities, for which purpose abundant supplies of water are available—produces fine crops of grain and vegetables. This is particularly the case in the extensive valleys watered by the Carson and East and West Walker rivers, in the counties of Douglas, Churchill, and Esmeralda, where heavy crops of grain and hay are produced each year. Extensive bodies of land lying in the Humboldt and Reese River region, it is estimated, can be made largely productive by resorting to irrigation. In the mountain portions immense quantities of the finest quality of timber exist, which supply a large number of saw mills, put in operation during the mining excitement which prevailed in this region, attracting an energetic and enterprising population from all quarters.

It is owing solely to her rich mineral resources that this young State has already attained a prominent position among the members of the Federal Union, and it is her inexhaustible silver lodes that constitute her principal wealth. Although the first discovery of silver in Nevada was made by the brothers Grosch, in 1852, owing to the untimely death of these parties, nothing definite was arrived at until the discovery of a rich deposit of sulphuret of silver, in June, 1859, by some parties engaged in placer mining near the present site of Virginia City. Immediately following this discovery, the rich lode which has become famous throughout the world as the Comstock, was claimed for miles, and an excitement fully equal to that caused by the first discovery of gold in California was the result. A large population streamed in, mines were opened, mills built, and an unprecedented activity prevailed in every branch of business. While this excitement has, to a great extent, gradually quieted down, the mills of Nevada still continue to send forth a large amount of bullion, and the quantity of silver bricks, instead of diminishing, is steadily on the increase. Vast as have been the results from the silver mines of Nevada, they are but the type of what is destined to follow. The proposed Sutro Tunnel to drain the Comstock ledge—an enterprise to which the General Government seems disposed to lend its fostering aid, will largely enhance the silver product of this State, and add greatly to the material wealth of the country. While it is estimated that the entire cost of this work will not exceed \$2,000,000, it is confidently anticipated that the net annual profits will amount to \$2,500,000. The entire* yield from the Comstock Lode, during the year 1866, is set down at \$14,907,891, being about \$2,000,000 over the product of the previous year. It is estimated that over \$5,000,000 are annually lost through the present wasteful mode of working the ores of the mines. Improvements are constantly making to remedy this evil. Notwithstanding the magnitude of the operations in this department, mining in the State of Nevada is still in its infancy, and it is reserved for the future to prove the vastness of its extent.

MINERAL—QUARTZ MILLS.

The number of quartz mills in operation in this State, January, 1867, is one hundred and fifty-six, of which one hundred and eighteen are propelled by steam; twenty-three by water, and fifteen by steam and water. The aggregate number of stamps is two thousand five hundred and seventy-seven. The cost of machinery and the works connected with the different mills is estimated at nine million four hundred and two thousand dollars. In addition to the stamps above enumerated, there are about twenty arrastras in operation, principally connected with the mills of Lyon County. There are several large metallurgical establishments and numerous private assaying offices in the State, which annually transact a heavy amount of business.

* Since the discovery of silver in this State, there have been extracted and added to the wealth of the world, \$85,000,000 of bullion, and the main source of all this wealth, from the most reliable authorities, has but just been uncovered."—*Gold Hill News*.