

established in 1825, for working mines in Spanish America, was in saddling themselves with great numbers of people, engaged at high salaries, and workmen at extravagant wages; the expenses attending this force swallowed up much of the funds before any work was begun. These included not only inspectors and mining-captains, but artisans, all of whom were sent from England. From a total change of life and circumstances, the mining-captains and artisans almost invariably turned out in a short time drunkards, and became good for nothing. In some cases miners were brought out, and these turned out still more worthless than either of the two former classes. They, indeed, did more work than the Indians, but their wages were higher, and the expenses for their importation in addition, made them cost much more.

According to the laws of Peru, the silver produced in this department must be sent to the government assay-office, to be melted into bars, and thence to the mint at Lima to be coined. The usual price of silver as it comes from the mine, is from seven dollars six reals, to seven dollars seven reals per marc. If remitted to Lima on account of the miner, it yields him about eight dollars one real per marc.

The duties it pays are six dollars per bar of two hundred and ten marcs to the assay-master, one real per marc for the public works of the Cerro, and one real per marc to government.

The mint price is eight dollars two maravedis per marc of eleven pennyweights fine.

Within three leagues of Pasco, on an extensive plain, there stands an isolated hill of porphyry, called Raco. From this hill are cut the stones used in grinding the ores, which are from two and a half to three varas in diameter, and from eighteen to twenty-four inches in thickness. The cost for delivering them at the foot of the hill is ten dollars for every quarter of a vara in their diameter, and the expense of drawing them to the mills varies from seventy to two hundred dollars, according to the distance.\*

In 1840, several new attempts were about to be made in mining speculations.

The great difficulty to secure success seems to be in providing for the proper drainage, which the present adit will not accomplish alone, and great advantages might be derived from steam-power properly employed to free the mines of water. The owners of the mines are always desirous of inserting in the contracts, that they shall not have

\* Most of the above facts are derived from a person who had long resided on the spot, and been engaged in various mining operations.