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Gold and Diamond Mines of South Africa.

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This picture shows rare scenes of the processes used in extracting gold and glittering diamonds of fabulous value, from what appears to be ordinary mud, in the closely guarded mines of South Africa. In the Joch Mine, one of the richest in the world, the miners have to descend to a level of three thousand feet below the surface of the earth; but, judging from the hauls of ore which we see hoisted to the top, it would be worth while digging straight through to the other side of the globe. Kimberley is the center of the world's largest diamond mines and the offices of the company controlling the diamond mines in the Transvaal look like a Saratoga hotel. Many close and interesting views are shown of the famous Premier Mine where the great Cullinan diamond weighing one and three quarter pounds was found. The processes for extracting the diamonds from the " Blue Earth " in which they are imbedded makes the subject for many fascinating scenes. This " Blue Earth " is brought to the surface and allowed to " weather " for a year. In the washing plant after a year's weathering this blue earth is dissolved into diamond mud. It is then placed in a " pulsator" where the diamond mud is reduced and the diamonds seperated. A single day is output of diamonds is worth $ 55,000. Although apparently an open space, the mine property is entirely surrounded by an impenetrable barbed wire fence and the natives are closely confined in a compound during their entire period of service. This picture presents a rare opportunity to see and understand the intricate processes which bring forth upon milady's finger those wondrous sparkling gems.

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