

MINING NEWS OF THE WORLD.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Commenting on the recent meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute in Vienna, the *Iron and Coal Trades Journal* compares the conditions under which the iron industry is carried on to-day with those existing when the Institute was founded thirty-eight years ago. Then the total make of pig iron throughout the world was less than 12,000,000 tons, while the world's make of steel was not more than 250,000 tons. To-day the world's make of pig iron is over 60,000,000 tons, while the total steel output is probably not less than 45,000,000 tons. Since its inception the Iron and Steel Institute has materially assisted in giving a general impulse to the introduction of new methods, new processes, new appliances, and more economical systems, and through these, our contemporary points out, the expansion reflected in the figures quoted has largely been brought about.

In an address to the National Association of Colliery Managers, the president, Mr. G. H. Winstanley, F.G.S., referring to the institution by the King of a "kind of mining Victoria Cross," said that it was of course the duty of colliery managers to make it very difficult, by increasing the element of safety in mines, for that docreration to be attained. Meanwhile official statistics of mining progress show that very remarkable and gratifying improvement in the general safety of British mines. Fifty years ago the proportion of lives lost annually was one in about every two hundred and fifty employed in and about mines. The average for the last ten years has been about one annually in every seven or eight hundred employed. And whereas from explosions, one life in every thousand employed was the average fifty years ago; the average at the present time is only one in nearly forty thousand.

The make of pig iron in the United Kingdom for the half year ending June 30th, 1907, was 5,194,731 tons, as compared with an output of 4,905,424 tons for the corresponding period of 1906, and with an output of 4,621,600 for the first half of 1905.

AUSTRIA.

Among resolutions passed by the Miners' International Congress, we note the following: That the employment of children under fourteen in the mining industry and of persons under sixteen underground should be prohibited by legal enactment; that female labor in mines should be prohibited; that a pension be paid miners after twenty-five years' work in the mines; that the principle of a minimum rate of wages be generally applied. The representation at the Congress included 58 delegates from Great Britain, 2 from the United States, 17 from Germany, 19 from Austria, 10 from Belgium and 6 from France.

BELGIUM.

The output of pig iron from Belgium blast furnaces during the eight months of the present year is 950,640 tons, or a slight increase over last year's returns for the same period.

FRANCE.

The eight-hour working day in mines is a bill providing for which has passed the popular assembly, has yet to be approved by the French Senate, and there is good reason to believe that the proposal will there meet with considerable opposition.

UNITED STATES.

According to figures compiled by the *Mining World* (Chicago), one hundred and twelve metal mines and works in the United States distributed profits during the nine months of the present year, ending with September, aggregating the considerable total of \$71,944,260. Our contemporary affirms that since incorporation these properties have paid \$546,885,672 in dividends on an issued capitalization of \$604,318,405, or nearly ninety per cent. These returns do not include dividends declared by the Amalgamated Copper, Copper Range Consolidated and other large corporations deriving profits from shares held in mines and metallurgical works.

In September five mines in the Coeur D'Alene district, Idaho, paid dividends aggregating \$811,000, making the total distribution of profits for the year \$4,559,500. A new and important discovery of galena is reported to have been made on the Vienna-International mine.

The State Geologist of Indiana reports renewed interest in the iron industry of that State. At Gary a number of blast furnaces are being constructed, at which point cheap fuel is obtainable.

The report of the Camp Bird, Limited (Colorado), just issued, shows earnings of £176,681, out of which two interim dividends, each amounting to £102,500, were paid. The net value of the ore reserves is placed at £703,525.

The output of the Montana copper mines has been reduced to 40 per cent. of the normal production, the smaller and independent concerns having also been forced to curtail shipments, the smelters having declined to treat their ore.

The United States Steel Corporation has decided to adopt the Koppers system of coke ovens on a large scale, and several thousands of these ovens, of the latest regenerator construction, are to be built in connection with the large new steel works to be erected at Chicago and elsewhere. The special features of the Kopper oven are: The distribution of the heating combined with easy means for regulation; the accessibility of all parts of the construction for inspection; and the large output of coke, by-products, and surplus combustible gas.

The Corporation has also, despite the less favorable prospects of the market, enlarged the scope of its plant for building a steel plant at Duluth; and instead of a plant comprising one 500 ton blast furnace, the furnace plant will have two furnaces, and the steel plant and finishing mills will be correspondingly larger.

Butte, Mont.—Oliver Crane, Master in Chancery, who heard the testimony of the famous smoke case, wherein it is sought to close the Washoe smelter of the Amalgamated Copper Company, has announced a draft of his findings of fact and set October 25th as the date on which he will hear objections to them and make final settlement. Upon the operation of the settlement depends the running of all the mines with the exception of several Clark properties.

JAMAICA.

The United States Consul at Kingston reports that promising copper areas have been acquired and being worked by American interests near Clarendon.

MEXICO.

Operations at the Greene-Cananea mine have been curtailed in consequence of copper market conditions.