

sense of humor is never absent; he sees the humorous side of everything—even in the most serious situations. It has carried him through; without it he would have found his career and his life impossible.

The roots of Kitchener's greatness lie in intense ambition to succeed—above all, to the incessant desire to work and fill every hour with something done. He is sent as a youngster to Palestine; through peril to life, through great privation, he pursues his work until he has completed a map of all western Palestine. He learns Arabic, and, above all, the Arabic character. Kitchener found his coronet in the Arab grammar.

Choice of subordinates is one of Lord Kitchener's greatest powers. He nearly always has had the right man in the right place. And his men return his confidence because he gives them absolute confidence. This is one of the reasons why, though he works so terrifically, he never is tired, never worried.

A great soldier, but perhaps a greater organizer than anything else. This is his supreme quality, and for that quality there is necessary above all things a clear, penetrating brain. At school he was celebrated for his knowledge of mathematics. A mathematician, an engineer, a man of science, a great accountant—these things he has been in all his enterprises.

#### COAL MINE EXPLOSIONS CAUSED BY GAS OR DUST.

In a paper prepared for the October meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, Mr. Howard N. Eavenson presents carefully tabulated statements concerning explosions in the coal mines of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

From the data gathered Mr. Eavenson concludes:

1. In North America, minor explosions, or those in which less than five fatalities occurred, happen most frequently in October, November, December, January and March, although nearly as many have happened in June as in March; those in December, January and February are above the average in fatalities, as are also those in May and July, those occurring in May having a slightly greater average fatality than even those of December.

Serious explosions, or those in which more than five lives have been lost, have happened most frequently in January, February, March, April and November. Contrary to the usual belief, the number of explosions in December has been slightly below the average, although their intensity, and the number of lives lost, have been considerably greater than those of any other month. January, February and May are also above the average in the number of fatalities per explosion, May being next to December in this respect.

For all explosions of gas or dust, January, March, November, October and December, in the order named, are above the average in number of explosions; in number of fatalities per explosion, May, December, February, January and March are above the average. For all explosions, therefore, May exceeds any of the winter months of fatalities per explosion.

2. In the coal mines of the United States, the total number of accidents and of fatalities due to explosions of gas or dust has been steadily increasing; there has been a slight increase in the number of accidents and a more decided increase in the number of fatalities per million tons produced; the serious explosions, causing five or more fatalities each, have been steadily increasing in actual number and number of fatalities, as well as in number of accidents and of fatalities per million tons produced; the number of accidents per mine, both serious and total, also shows a steady increase. It is

therefore true that we have more explosions, and more serious ones, both actually and in relation to our number of mines and production, than we had years ago.

3. In the coal mines of Great Britain, minor explosions, so far as our records show, have occurred most frequently in the months of August, October, May, March and September, while those in April, May, August, November, March and July are above the average in number of fatalities per explosion. Serious explosions have occurred most frequently in December, October, November and March, while those in June, December, July, February and May have been of more than average intensity. For all explosions, August, October, December, March, May and November are above the average in number, and December, June, July, February, are above the average in intensity. By far the largest number of fatalities has occurred in December, June being second in this respect.

4. In the coal mines of France, from 1841 to 1904, minor explosions have occurred most frequently in July, August, February, April, May and January and have been of more than average intensity in April, December, July, February, August and October. Serious explosions have been above the average in frequency in August, April, July and March, and in intensity in January, September, December, July, November and October. For all explosions, July, August, April and May are above the average in number, and December, January, November, July, March, October and September in intensity. By far the largest number of both accidents and fatalities have occurred in July.

5. In the coal mines in Belgium, 1891 to 1909, minor explosions occurred more frequently than the average in June, May and July, and in March, January, February, April and June were of more than average intensity. Serious explosions occurred most frequently in May, March and July and were of more than average intensity in March. For all explosions, May, July and June are above the average in number and March in intensity. By far the largest number of fatalities occurred in March.

#### AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS.

The seventeenth annual session of the American Mining Congress will be held at Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1914.

The same plan will be followed as that of last year; namely, all the leading papers will be printed and distributed in advance of the convention. This plan gives better opportunity for direct discussion of the papers presented and facilitates reaching intelligent conclusions. The printed pages will be distributed to members and the author given ten minutes to make any desirable supplementary statement. Two or three speakers will be asked to make ten-minute addresses and then the discussion will be open to all delegates.

Among the subjects which will be discussed are the following: Western Mining Conditions, Mine Manufacturing, Federal Investments, Safety, Federal Aid in Mining, Federal Aid to Mining Schools, Water Power Development, Conservation, Workmen's Compensation, Development of Minerals in Reservations, Right-of-Way on the Public Domain, Mine Taxation, Revision of Mining Laws and Compulsory Arbitration.

While the entertainment features will be so planned as not to interfere with the work of the convention, more time than usual will be allowed from the regular sessions. The local entertainment committee will be ready to make enjoyable every minute not occupied by the business of the Congress. President, Carl Scholz; Secretary, J. F. Callbreath.