## IRON-PRODUCING STATES.

Of the iron mined in the United States in 1912 Minnesota produced 59.2 per cent.; Michigan, 19.3 per cent.; Alabama, 7.8 per cent.; New York, 2.1 per cent. No other State mined over 1,000,000 tons. Four other States reported over 500,000 tons each—Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Tennessee, naming them in the order of their importance. Assuming all the iron mined to have been consumed, the ore used to make one ton of pig iron in 1912 was 1,855 tons.—(Engineering and Mining Journal.)

## SOME UNITED STATES MINERALS.

Total production of gold in the United States during 1912 amounted to $93,451,000, a decrease of $3,438,500, as compared with the previous year. The output of silver was valued at $39,197,500, an increase of $3,367,404 over 1911. Phosphate rock, which is the principal source of one of the three fertilizing elements necessary for plant growth, was marketed in the United States last year to the extent of 2,973,332 long tons, valued at $11,675,774.

## CANADA-AUSTRALIAN SERVICE.

The Dominion Government has renewed the contract with the New Zealand Shipping Company for the steamer service between Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The summer port will be Montreal and the winter ports will be St. John and Halifax. The contract provides for monthly sailings direct from Canada to the Antipodes, but the return voyage may be made by any route. The subsidy is $140,000 and the tenure of the contract is two years.

## DIAMONDS AND ECONOMY

"With business almost at a standstill," observes the London "Standard" in a discussion of the stock market of that city, "and with prices of stocks at a general low ebb at all the financial centres, it is little wonder that the demand for luxuries like diamonds is falling off."

## GOOD SIGNS.

"Politics," testifies the London "Sunday Times," "have almost ceased to be mentioned, the monetary position is admitted to be on the mend, and further new Colonial issues are to be postponed."

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