

with a view to the continuance of the peace negotiations. On the other hand, the general conference called by the strikers and held at Cardiff decided to request all the lodges in the coal field to send delegates with a mandate to vote for or against a general strike throughout Wales. The vote on this point will be taken at the adjourned conference at Cardiff. The conference of November 21st, which was repudiated by the Miners' Federation, who recommended all Federationists to abstain from attendance, was of a fairly representative character, being attended by 100 delegates from almost every part of the coal field. This policy of a general strike was strongly recommended but most of the delegates said they could not vote on that question, as their lodges had not given them a mandate to that effect. In that way the conference came to be adjourned, in order that the lodges might be specifically asked to instruct their delegates upon the question of a general strike. The whole morning was spent in receiving reports from the collieries in the affected area. These were generally to the effect that the workmen were idle because they "refused to work for wages and under conditions that no self-respecting men should tolerate." They alleged that the "oppression of the employers had become intolerable," that the conditions were "inhuman," and that when workmen, after hard and honest toil, had failed to realize more than a few pence per day, the employers had chosen to brand them as loafers, or told them to limit their families to suit their scanty earnings.

#### BELGIUM.

The imports of petroleum products into Belgium during August amounted to 21,471 tons, compared with 19,810 tons in August, 1909. For the eight months to the end of August the total imports were 135,825 tons, against 242,589 tons for the corresponding period of last year.

#### AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government has communicated to the press the following statement which is of considerable interest to all shareholders in oil producing companies operating in Galicia: "The Government proposes to open an investigation for the purpose of discussing the crisis in the petroleum industry. This investigation is now fixed by the Ministry of Commerce for Monday, 28th instant, at 10 a.m., in the session hall of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce. Invitations to take part in this have been sent to representatives of the crude oil producers, refiners, wholesale and retail dealers in oil and a series of oil experts. With each invitation was enclosed a sheet of questions, marking out the following programme for the discussions: 1. The present position of crude oil production, of the refining industry and the trade in kerosene. 2. The situation as to prices from the consumer's point of view. 3. Is it necessary at the present time to introduce any special measures to place the mineral oil industry on a sound footing? In case of an affirmative reply, what measures are suitable for the purpose, which do not entail the burdening of the consumer by excessively enhanced prices? 4. What attitude should be taken with regard to the export business, and what means should be adopted in its support?"

#### RUSSIA.

The total production on the four main areas of the Baku district during September amounted to 37,100,000 poods, against 43,700,000 poods produced during September, 1909, and 43,200,000 during August, 1910. The total production for the nine months of this year amounts to 364,200,000 poods, against 368,000,000 poods produced during the corresponding period in the preceding year.

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

A cablegram from Johannesburg states that during October the mines of the Rand alone (that is, excluding outside mines)

crushed 1,868,718 tons, the average yield per ton being 28s, the working costs per ton 17s 9d, the profit per ton 10s 3d, and the aggregate profit £952,161.

#### AFRICA—GOLD COAST.

The Governor of the Gold Coast reports that the output of gold from the colony, including Ashanti, during the month of October amounted to 13,954 ozs, values at £58,008.

#### UNITED STATES.

**Cripple Creek, Colo., Dec. 1.**—The report on output and total bullion value of ores from the Cripple Creek mining district in November shows 74,180 tons treated, some 20,000 tons being handled by mills in the district. The average value per ton ranged from \$3.5 to \$65. The total value was \$1,381,050. There was a general increase in the amount of ore handled at the several mills. The tonnage this month is about 4,000 tons more than last month and the gross bullion value is about \$45,000 greater than that of October.

**Cripple Creek, Colo., Dec. 3.**—In November 60 cars were shipped out by the leasers and company from the Hull City shaft of the Vindicator Consolidated Company's estate. Of this amount 45 cars were shipped by lessees, the grade of ore being milling class, while 15 cars were shipped by the company from this shaft with better results. There are 10 sets of lessees in the shaft and all are in ore. Each contributes about the same amount toward the output. The 60 cars totalled better than 1,500 tons. A good deal of development work is being done by the company, especially on the lower levels.

**Ouray, Colo., Dec. 1.**—The regular quarterly dividend of a shilling a share, or 20 per cent. yearly, declared by the Camp Bird, Limited, attracts attention periodically to the earnings of a typical Colorado gold mine, but these dividend statements fall considerably short in representing the actual profits of the undertaking. Up to the end of the fiscal year ended April 30, 1910, the total of dividends paid was £1,287,000 (approximately \$6,253,000) or 155 per cent. In five of the eight years since the acquisition of the property by the present owners the dividends were 20 per cent.; in the other three they were 27½, 15, and 12½ per cent. The smaller dividends for two years are accounted for by the heavy expense for construction made necessary by the destruction of the mill.

**Butte, Mont.**—The Butte district is maintaining its output of copper at 23,000,000 to 24,000,000 pounds a month, and about 22,000,000 pounds of that represents the production of the two Anaconda Company smelters. In November the total production was 23,700,000 pounds. The Anaconda Company changes its output of various mines to meet exigencies. At present the mines of the Butte Coalition department are at the lowest point of ore production in several years.

**Antlers, Okla., Nov. 28.**—Fourteen miners were killed or entombed in a mine 20 miles north of here to-day. Five bodies have been recovered. Nine men were entombed in the mine and Secretary Thomas of the mining company, says there is no doubt that all were killed. The five men whose bodies have been recovered were thrown from the mouth of the mine more than 100 feet into the air. The cause of the explosion has not been determined but it is believed to have resulted from gas formation. The mine is the property of the Choctaw Asphalt Company, of St. Louis.

**Washington.**—Expressing it as his opinion that the want of cheap fuel and the delay in opening the Alaska coal fields are the strongest adverse factors in the present problem of territorial progress, Governor Walter F. Clark, of Alaska, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, declares that "the ill-advised policy of forbidding all development of the large coal resources of Alaska, or of placing such restrictions upon development as to make the embarkation of private capital approximated 19,000 tons. This is about the average for the past four months."