

ore at Broken Hill and Port Pirie until the completion of existing contracts.

All the leading mining companies in the silver-lead district of Western Tasmania, according to Consul Henry D. Baker, showed a diminution in their earnings during 1908, with the exception of several companies engaged in mining coal; this was the only mineral product whose value showed an increase over that of 1907.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**

Work in some of the outlying districts of the Traansvaal has been much retarded this year on account of severe outbreaks of malarial fever, due, no doubt, in a large measure to the exceptionally heavy rains that have fallen, resulting in the creation of a large amount of decaying vegetable matter and other conditions generally associated with malaria.

Rand milling profits fell below 30 shillings per ton in March, or nearly nine shillings below the average for 1904, since which time there has been an almost continuous decrease.

A syndicate has been formed to work large iron ore deposits in the neighborhood of Alberstone, about thirty miles from Durban, Natal. The deposits consist of brown and purple hematites and limonite. An ample supply of limestone is said to be available.

**UNITED STATES.**

The legislature of Washington has appropriated \$50,000 for the State Geological Survey for the biennial period, 1909-10. Of

this amount \$30,000 will be used for co-operative mapping and hydrographic investigations, and \$20,000 for geologic investigations.

The miners of the Pennsylvania anthracite region have finally decided to renew the old agreement with the operators for another three years.

After a year or more of experimenting, those in charge of the electric iron ore smelter at Heroult, Cal., consider that they have made a commercial success of the project. The large new furnace was tapped for the first time last week. It is expected that the furnace will turn out about 200 tons of commercial pig iron daily.

The United States Senate has adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Finance for a duty of 25 cents per ton on iron ore. The House had placed that article on the free list, while the present law levies a duty on it of 40 cents per ton.

**MEXICO.**

The projected new mining law will probably not be introduced at the present session of the Mexican Congress. Inasmuch as the law is intended to be a codification of all existing laws and decrees, it is exceedingly broad in its scope, and touches on many points that are naturally open for discussion. It is said that the delay in enacting the law is due to the necessity of much consideration of these new points and phases.

**COMPANY NOTES.**

**APRIL STATEMENT OF LA ROSE.**

The preliminary statement of production and earnings of the La Rose Mines, Limited, for the month of April, 1909, follows:—

	Tons.	Silver Contents.	Net Value.
April production—			
Shipments . . . . .	625	315,544	\$133,652
On hand, April 30 . . . . .	285	267,913	123,139
	910	583,457	\$256,791
Less on hand, March 31 . . . . .	237	313,090	145,882
April production . . . . .	673	270,367	\$110,909
Estimated expense . . . . .			26,794
Net profit for April . . . . .			84,115
		Silver Contents.	Net Value.
Total for 11 months, June 1, 1908, to April 30, 1909 . . . . .		2,732,295	\$959,584

**NORTHERN EXPLORATION CO. PAYS 280 PER CENT.**

The Northern Exploration Co. of Cobalt, with a paid-up capital of \$100,000, has recently declared a dividend of 140 per cent., payable in La Rose shares, taken at a market value of \$7 per share. The company has already paid several cash dividends of 10 per cent. each.

The Northern Exploration Company's shares were originally sold at 50 cents, so that the dividend is really equal to 280 per cent. on the cash invested.

**KERR LAKE DECLARES DIVIDEND.**

The Board of Directors of the Kerr Lake Mining Company have declared the regular quarterly dividend of 4 per cent., and an extra dividend of 2 per cent. upon the capital stock of the company payable June 15th, 1909, to all stockholders of record June 1st, 1909.

**NIPISSING'S APRIL STATEMENT.**

During the month of April the Nipissing mined ore of estimated net value of \$149,789, and shipped ore of an estimated net value of \$96,492. This compares with ore mined in March to the value of \$141,623, and ore shipped to the value of \$193,845. Of the total 291,620 ounces of silver produced during April 108,689 ounces, or 37 per cent., came from the Kendall vein.

**PETERSON LAKE CO. ANNUAL REPORT.**

The third annual report of the Peterson Lake Silver-Cobalt Mining Company, Limited, has been mailed to shareholders. At no expense to the Peterson Lake Company, a great deal of thorough work has been performed by the different lessees in the direction of proving up a large claim area.