

afterward to 2,000 tons, the tonnage for which the plant was originally designed. Although the construction plans have been changed and a concrete foundation built for a mill of a capacity of 3,000 tons daily, the third unit will not be added until a later date. At present, most of the concrete work is completed, and the steel frame for the concentrator building is well advanced, so that the principal construction work in the future will be that of installing the various machines in the concentrator and power plant buildings. Large shipments of machinery and structural steel are received almost daily, and with a force of nearly 500 workmen, a large number of whom are skilled machinists, these shipments will be readily taken care of.

Washington, D.C., May 17th.—President Taft has signed the bill creating a bureau of mines, but has as yet taken no action looking to the appointment of a chief of the new branch.

The bureau was created for the purpose of making diligent investigation of the methods of mining, especially in relation to the safety of miners, and the appliances best adapted to prevent accidents, the possible improvement of conditions under which mining operations are carried on, the treatment of ores, and other mineral substances, the use of explosives and electricity; and other inquiries and technological investigations pertaining to the mining industry.

The new bureau will be a branch of the Interior Department. Work in connection with mining which is now being conducted

by the Geological Survey, a bureau of the Interior Department, will be transferred to the mines bureau. Such work includes the investigation of structural matters, the analyzing and testing of coals and the ascertaining of the causes of mine explosions.

While the act creating the new bureau was designed largely to practicalize the investigations of the Geological Survey and meet the demand for action to prevent the constantly recurring coal mine explosions throughout the country, it was drawn on broad enough lines to permit of the extension of many benefits to mines where explosions do not often occur.

The bureau of mines is to be under control of a director who will receive a salary of \$6,000 a year. J. F. Callbreath, of Denver, secretary of the Mining Congress, has joined in a petition to the president for the appointment of Dr. J. A. Holmes, of the Geological Survey, to the position.

ALASKA.

Valdez, May 14th.—The first attempt at quartz mining in this district has proved highly successful, returns received here to-day from the first eighteen days' operations of the Cliff Mining Company's claim showing an output of 860 ounces of gold, besides \$4,000 in concentrates, from 150 tons of ore.

The company was organized eight months ago to develop the quartz vein on Valdez Bay, and a thousand foot tunnel and an uprise was driven, and a three-stamp mill installed.

COMPANY NOTES.

INTERNATIONAL COAL.

The annual report of the International Coal & Coke Company, which has just been issued, shows that the net profits for the year, after paying all operating expenses at the head office and the mine, amount to \$246,271, which sum has been derived from the various departments of the company's coal and coke business.

Four quarterly dividends at the rate of one and a quarter per cent., amounting to \$145,000, were paid, the balance, \$101,271, being carried to the surplus account, which now reaches the handsome sum of \$34,595.

The president's report says that during the year development work proceeded apace, some 2,303,352 tons being in sight on December 1st, 1909, after due allowance for working and waste had been made. These figures show a net gain of 323,352 tons developed over and above the tonnage extracted.

The Hedley Gold Mining Company, which purchased the famous Nickel Plate mine and reduction works at Hedley last August, has issued a statement covering its operations during 1909.

The company took an option on the property in May of last year for \$715,000, which was exercised on August 13th, 1909. During the life of the option exploratory work was carried on and the new company received half of the profits made during that period, its share amounting to \$15,748.89. The net profits from August 13th to December 31st were \$68,812.57. The first dividend of three per cent. was paid January 4th, 1910, leaving a surplus as of December 31st, 1909, of \$79,041.46.

Mr. I. L. Merrill, president of the Hedley Gold Mining Company, in his report to stockholders last month, says: "At present we are wholly dependent on our water power. Low temperatures and drought interfere with this power and stop our mill. We have been fairly fortunate this winter, losing but little time until February 24th, when a temperature of 24 degrees below zero shut down the mill. We hope to be able to resume by or before April 1st. Our engineers are figuring on building a larger

dam, to give a water power that would be unaffected by weather conditions; or, as an alternative, adding an auxiliary steam plant to run the mill when our water power fails.

"Prior to our taking possession of the property the tailings were wasted. We are now impounding them and a substantial profit is hoped for from their retreatment. Your president, with the aid of the best experts, is conducting experiments to determine character of needed changes in reduction plant. The changes can probably be made this summer. They should increase the tonnage of ore handled and save most of the gold now going into the tailings. The additional recovery hoped for is estimated at \$1.25 per ton of ore treated.

"Your president believes that the outlay needed to enlarge and improve the reduction plant and power plant will not exceed \$100,000. The company at its inception, was provided with \$280,000 working capital, so that the cost of new plant is much more than provided for. No outlay will be made until we are satisfied that it will be quickly repaid by increased profits."

The production returns from August 12th to December 31st, 1909, were as follows:

	Tons Milled.	Assay Value.	Net Profits.
August and September...	6,092	\$11.90	\$18,190.70
October	3,914	11.75	16,186.68
December	3,392	12.80	14,556.29
November	3,691	12.76	17,918.01

The company has since declared its second quarterly dividend of three per cent., which was payable on April 2nd last.

The Temiskaming Mining Company has issued a statement for the first three months of the fiscal year. Profits for the quarter ending April 30th were \$96,684.05, which practically places the company out of debt. The statement of the president claims the mine is now working in good ore, and that excellent results are being obtained from the concentrating plant, although the work at the mill was retarded owing to the delay in getting sufficient electric power.