

working 30 feet square. He afterwards sold out to the predecessors of the London & South African Exploration Co. The adjoining farm, Bultfontein, was sold to a syndicate for \$10,000.00. The diamonds on this farm were first found in the plaster on the outside of the old Boer's house. Vooruitzigt, adjoining, was bought for \$30,000.00. These three syndicates, formed the nucleus of the companies who subsequently amalgamated, and are to-day known as De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd. The following is a record of farms which now comprise the diamond fields of Kimberley:

(a) Bultfontein—14,457 acres, granted by the British Government to J. F. Otto, December 16th, 1848.

(b) Dorstfontein—6,579 acres, granted by the Orange Free State to Abraham Dutoit, April 4th, 1860.

(c) Vooruitzigt—68,405 acres, was originally part of Bultfontein and was sold to D. A. and J. N. DeBeer, April 16th, 1860. The total area of these three farms is $58\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. At the present time the land owned by the company covers an area of about 493 square miles.

Kimberley and DeBeers Mines are situated on the farm Vooruitzigt. They were both discovered in the year 1871, Kimberley being found by a Kaffir.

In 1872 the workings began to cave, and roads were blocked, which prevented ingress to and egress from the centre claims, which necessitated the use of wire rope haulage to the rim of the crater. Hand power was in use until 1874, when the first horse whim was installed. This form of power was used for a year, and in 1875 the first steam hoisting plant was put into use. From this time on drainage and caving difficulties became very prevalent, for it can be well understood that it is not possible to work down to unlimited depth in a patch of land, say 20 feet square, thus it was that diggers amalgamated into small syndicates, which syndicates again combined, eventually forming the various companies who controlled each individual mine. It was in the early eighties that Messrs. Rhodes, Barnato, Rudd, and other leading men in the diamond industry, formulated the scheme of complete amalgamation of all the interests in the Kimberley field, with the prime object of controlling the price of diamonds by the restriction of the output. It may be of interest to know that the Kimberley Mine Syndicate first paid \$5,500,000 for the combined claims. The price paid by the DeBeers Consolidated Mines for the same property was \$26,693,250, giving an idea of the wealth behind the DeBeers Co. Mr. Rhodes had great difficulty in getting the amalgamation scheme through, and it is due to his determination that DeBeers is to-day as it is.

In those days Mr. Rhodes was anything but a wealthy man, and it was a common occurrence to draw \$25 on account