

SWEDEN.

A Consular report states that about 4,500,000 metric tons of iron ore were produced in Sweden last year, from 308 mines. The gold production was, however, very inconsiderable, while lead was produced to the amount of 7,000,000 kg.; copper, 1,209,130 kg.; and zinc, 174,600 kg.

RUSSIA.

Intelligence has been received of the discovery of rich gold placers near Okhotsk, and several enterprises are already prepared to work them. The discovery, it is stated, of gold in the north-eastern possessions of the United States, in Alaska and on the Seward Peninsula, has been of great importance in the development of adjacent Siberian territory.

PORTUGAL.

Portugal produces, according to an official report just issued, antimony, arsenic, anthracite coal, copper, lead, iron, manganese, tungsten, tin and zinc. The industry, however, is not yet established on a very important footing, since the total mineral output for last year is valued at only \$1,803,380.

UNITED STATES.

For the nine months ending September 30, asbestos to the value of \$798,301 was imported into the United States, the product being that of the mines of Thetford and Black Lake districts, in the Province of Quebec.

Nearly all the copper mines in the United States, following the example of Butte, have announced a reduction in miners' wages. Among others the principal mines in Arizona, notably Bisbee, Globe, Clifton-Moreni and Jerome, have effected reductions, as have also a number of the large companies operating in the Lake Superior mining districts. Thus the Calumet & Hecla has announced a reduction of 12 1-2 per cent. in the wages of all classes of labor at the mines and mills, while in other cases a reduction of only 5 per cent. has been made. The Calumet & Hecla employs between six and seven thousand men. The miners, however, are not permitting the new scale to go into effect without protest, and a deputation has been appointed to request the company to make the reduction less severe.

Meanwhile iron mining in this region is very active, production during October constituting a record for the year, the output from the five ranges being approximately 6,400,000 tons.

The Couer D'Alene lead mines still continue to maintain a normal production, despite the unsatisfactory lead prices, while last month five companies paid dividends aggregating \$576,000.

As a result of lower treatment rates conceded by the mill and smelter trusts, a largely increased output was made by the Cripple Creek mines last month, or 69,950 tons, valued at \$978,086, as com-

pared with 62,950 tons, valued at \$944,200, for September. It is anticipated that the November output will realize \$1,250,000.

The mineral production of the United States is shown in "The Mineral Resources of the United States," advance sheets of which have been issued, to have reached the enormous total value of \$1,902,505,206, as compared with \$1,623,928,720, an increase of 17 1-2 per cent. The two most important mineral products were coal and iron, the value of the former having been \$513,079,809, and of the latter \$505,700,000.

MEXICO.

The Government has under consideration the enactment of new mining laws, which have created much discussion among mine operators. The questions raised include the ownership of residues from reduction plants and mills, the disposition of the waters from the mines and mills, the subdivision of mining properties, and the registration of mining titles.

SOUTH AFRICA.

An effort is being made in London to secure additional capital for the development of platinum mines in the Albany district, Grahamstown, Cape Colony. Samples of the rock are said to assay as high as 17 oz. 16 dwts. platinum to the ton.

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Mining Journal* (London) states that the advent of the Victoria Falls Power Company inaugurates a new era in the production of electric power on the Witwatersrand, and in some instances a load factor of over 90 per cent. is being regularly maintained.

An interesting paper on the "Origin of the Gold in the Rand Banket" was recently read before the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy by Prof. J. W. Gregory, wherein he arrives at the conclusion that the theory in best agreement with the facts seems to be that which regards the banket as a marine placer in which gold and black sand were laid down in a series of shore deposits. The gold was in minute particles, and it was concentrated by the wash to and fro of the tide, sweeping away the light sand and silt, while the gold collected in the sheltered places between the larger pebbles. The black sand deposited with the gold has been converted into pyrites, and at the same time the gold was dissolved and deposited in situ.

AUSTRALASIA.

A new copper field of great promise is reported to be developing in Cangai, in the Grafton district of New South Wales. The deposits are said to be of enormous size, while the conditions are such that costs are very much lower than in any other copper district in Australia. The metal is at present being obtained at a cost of \$165 a ton, as compared with from \$100 to \$250 a ton in other New South Wales districts, of \$66 a ton in Queensland and \$350 in South Australia.

STATISTICS AND RETURNS.

The output of the collieries of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company for the week ended November 15 totalled 22,043 tons, a daily average of 3,674 tons.

The output of the collieries of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company for the week ending November 22nd was 18,508 tons, a daily average of 3,085 tons. For the corresponding week of last year the output was 7,791 tons, a daily average of 1,298 tons.

Despite the shut down of the Boundary Mines and smelters in the middle of last week, the ore receipts at the smelters show a

respectable total, to a large extent made up of ore in transit. It is generally considered that the shut down, for which as yet no cause has been assigned, is not likely to last.

Appended will be found the ore shipments in detail for the week ending November 16th and year to date in tons.

Boundary shipments—Week, 27,618; year, 1,139,708.

Rossland shipments—Week, 6,162; year, 242,935.

Slocan-Kootenay shipments—Week, 4,455; year, 143,125.

The total shipments from the mines in the above districts for the past week were 38,235 tons and for the year to date 1,525,768 tons.