NEUTRAL RIGHTS

In the recent note to Great Britain, Secretary Lansing says that the United States "unhesitatingly assumes the task of championing the integrity of neutral rights." Maybe the people of Belgium will derive some comfort from that statement. Possibly however they prefer the aid given them by Americans through the Belgium Relief Commission to that which they can find in the American note. Possibly also they are convinced that the champion of neutral rights is now fighting for them and has been fighting for them since the Huns invaded Belgium.

We are advised that membership in the International Engineering Congress will be open until the close of the year. Members will receive copies of the transactions on the subject they are most interested in. The Secretary calls special attention to the great value of the papers on the Panama Canal. In the mining and metallurgical sections several important papers were presented.

The Porcupine district has now to its credit another gold producing mine, the Schumacher. The Schumacher property has been developed by Mr. F. W. Schumacher and his associates in a somewhat leisurely manner and without attracting much public attention. Mr. Jos. Houston, the superintendent, has carried on development as extensively as a very limited monthly expenditure would allow. A mill has recently been built and began treating ore in September. The October production is reported at $20,000.

It is with regret that we notice the conclusion of the long and honorable career of the "Colliery Engineer," a periodical that is perhaps better known to the present generation of mining men under the name of "Mines & Minerals." The "Colliery Engineer" has been purchased by the publishers of "Coal Age," and the two papers consolidated. It is a sign of the times and of the far-reaching influence of the metropolis of New York. The "Colliery Engineer" was above all a students' paper, and its history has been largely bound up with that of the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton. It may be presumed that the unfortunate position of the I. C. S. brought about by a departure from its legitimate activities has had something to do with the sale of the "Colliery Engineer." However this may be, there is a large circle of readers that will miss the more scholastic and literary *format* of the older periodical, and will not find in the up-to-date and somewhat commercialized characteristics of "Coal Age" the same sense of interest and familiarity they used to feel towards the "Colliery Engineer."—F. W. G.

Iron and steel are in great demand, both for war purposes and for domestic purposes. The change in the market during the past few months has been wonderful. It is comparable with the great improvement which in the case of nickel, copper, lead, zinc and minor metals showed itself early in the year.

Copper production of the Granby Consolidated Mining Smelting and Power Co., British Columbia's premier copper mining company, is reported to have been 4,119,389 pounds last month. This is a new high record.

Increase in wages has been announced by the nickel-copper mining companies of the Sudbury district. The companies are doing an exceptionally large and profitable business this year and it is only fair that the employees should not be forgotten.

Messrs. Davis and Steindler, who purchased the Dobie-Leyson claims in Munro township have named their company the Croesus. If such ore as has been mined in development work is found in large quantity the mine will prove to be very well named.

The paying of a dividend of over $65,000 by the Tough-Oakes mining company will probably help to attract to Kirkland lake and other districts along the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway some of the attention which the numerous promising gold discoveries deserve.

Pacaud township seems destined to be included among Ontario gold producing areas. A discovery made by J. Macdonough early in the fall has been found very promising and it is said that development work will be started at an early date.

POTASH FROM FELDSPAR

Several new methods of increasing the supply of American potash have recently been brought to the attention of the U. S. bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, of the department of commerce. One of the most promising is a patent taken out a few weeks ago by a Canadian for a method of using the potash in ordinary feldspar.

The process is simple, consisting of heating the feldspar with limestone and iron oxide at a temperature of about 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which produces a partly fused mass that is easily decomposed by a weak acid. From this product the potash salts can readily be extracted for further purification. It seems very possible that a greatly simplified method of transforming feldspar into fertilizer will soon be available.

A practical try-out for another method will soon take place at a New Orleans distillery where molasses is used in large quantities. It is a fact that 106 tons of potash are wasted daily by the 25 or more distilleries in this country that subject molasses to processes of fermentation. The New Orleans company is planning to install the process of saving the potash in distillery waste recently brought to the attention of the public by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. It should be possible to make fertilizer from this otherwise worthless material at a price that will meet competition even after the war is over.

SEPARATION OF COPPER AND NICKEL

Mr. N. V. Hybinette of Christiansand, Norway, has patented a process for separating copper from copper-nickel solutions by using as anode a copper-nickel alloy containing 4 to 8% sulphur. The anode must be previously corroded in an electrolytic bath.

National Trust Co., Toronto, is named as assignee in the application for this patent in the United States.