

of their operations here, a smelter will assuredly follow, under the management of that corporation.

Revelstoke.—The Big Bend mica property is being developed with difficulty. The trails are in bad shape and will have to be improved before substantial work can be done.

Victoria.—The Pacific Metals Company has just been incorporated in Victoria with a capital of \$250,000. The object of the new mining company is to take over mining prospects and undeveloped mines and work them in order to bring them to a shipping or selling basis.

W. M. Brewer, who since 1902 has been ore-buyer for the Tyee Copper Company of this city, which position he resigned president, and J. L. Parker, who was for some time manager of the Brown-Alaska Company's mines at Hadley, Alaska, and who was in charge of the North Star and Brooklyn and Stenwinder mines in the Kootenay district, is manager for the new concern.

W. M. Brewer has been engaged in mining and ore buying for the last quarter of a century, and before coming to British Columbia in 1893 spent years in the mining districts in the Black Hills of South Dakota, Arizona, Colorado and other mining centres. For the past six years he has been engaged as ore-buyer for the Tyee Copper Company.

It is expected the incorporation of the Pacific Metals Company will give an impetus to the development of mining in British Columbia, for prospectors and others who have promising prospects will find the company ready to take over the development. Mr. Brewer left on the steamer *Princess May* on behalf of the new company to look up some properties in the north.

YUKON.

Dawson City.—The Yukon Gold Company, in which the Guggenheims are interested, employs 1,200 men on its various works, chiefly on Bonanza and Hunker, and have seven dredges and three electric lifts engaged in saving gold as well as hydraulic apparatus. It is expected that the company will pay a big dividend this fall, when operations will cease for the winter. By then the company will have dug 78 miles of ditches, obtaining the water from the head of the Twelve Mile.

The Northern Light and Power Company, which is developing coal deposits near Forty Mile, employs 200 men. This is the company formerly controlled by Dr. Grant and A. N. Fuller, and was taken over by an English company. Mr. Thurston is the manager.

MINING NEWS OF THE WORLD.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The owners of the Uranium and Radium mine at Grampound Road, near St. Austell, Cornwall, announce that their pitchblende lode has been reached at a depth of forty fathoms. The lode has forced its way through an extremely hard elvan course, every inch of which had to be blasted—the elvan course being a mixture of porphyry and granite. Some men of science doubted the existence of the pitchblende below the thirty fathom level; it is now proved to be present in good strength at a further depth of 72 feet. The British Metalliferous Mines, Ltd., believe that they will be able to supply larger orders for radium than that of 7½ grammes, value £30,000, they are now engaged upon for the Radium Institute. The company is erecting a concentrating plant, so that the pitchblende will go for radium treatment in a highly condensed form.

Preparations are being made for the erection of two steel furnaces at the works of W. Gilbertson & Co.

A lockout is threatened in the iron industry in Scotland. The Employers' and the Operatives' Executive Committee recently agreed to a reduction in wages of a farthing per hour, or a shilling per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates, to take effect on the 9th instant. The day men have acquiesced, but the piece workers have struck. The employers have issued an ultimatum to the effect that if piece workers do not return to work on Monday there will be a general lockout of associated moulders throughout Scotland on Wednesday, the 15th September.

EUROPE.

Spain.

A telegram from Huelva states that as the result of the strike of the workmen of the Móra mine, a British concern, the directors have declared a lockout which affects one thousand miners.

Russia.

So far as concerns production, the position of the Russian oil industry is a little more favourable than was the case a short time ago, and it is probable that an expansion will be shown in the output for the current year as the result of the increasing number of wells which are steadily coming into operation. An

analysis of the output of each individual source of supply shows, however, that the production per well is not improving. As regards prices, the current quotation at Baku is a little under 23 copecks per pood, which while higher than the corresponding quotation in 1907-8, is not so good as the figure ruling some six months ago. There does not seem to be much prospect of a recovery in prices just at present, though it is equally true that the market seems firm at the present level. Expenses have undoubtedly gone up very substantially of late, partly as a result of increased wages, while the much greater depths to which the wells have been sunk adds to the cost of raising the mineral. It is also a fact that a great deal of unproductive work has been carried out, a considerable number of the borings recently instituted having given no tangible results. As it costs at least £10,000 to sink a well, it is obviously a serious matter when such a heavy expenditure proves abortive.

Italy.

Salt is being experimented with by the Italian Department of Agriculture as a preventive of ankylostomiasis. The Formignano colliery was chosen as the place for the experiments. Here salt was strewn about the workings. Results so far are negative.

Roumania.

Eighteen petroleum testing holes at Moreni, the richest spot in the Prahova petroleum district, have been burnt out. The loss is estimated at about £40,000, of which half represents American capital. No loss of life is reported.

Austria.

The year 1908 was an eventful one in the Galician oil industry, being marked by greatly increased production and such unprecedentedly low prices that many of the producers were threatened with ruin. The Austrian Government finally came to the rescue with active assistance, which has helped towards putting the industry on a sound basis. By the end of 1907 the price of crude oil had fallen to 1s 3d per 100 kilograms. During the first three months of 1908 there was a slight rise in prices, but in April and May a number of new wells were struck, and the enormous overproduction which followed caused the greatest embarrassment to the industry, while the existing storage and railway transport arrangements proved totally inadequate.