

minion Government. This figure exceeds by ten million dollars the corresponding figure for 1911. For the month of October alone, the value of mine products exported was \$6,344,910, as against \$3,948,291 for October, 1911.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, in response to a request from British Columbia, asking him to reduce the freight rates upon coal from the Nicola collieries, replied that the present rate from Merritt to Vancouver, 225 miles, was \$1.80 per ton, and that this was an irreducible minimum. As there is a serious fuel shortage, there is every probability that the British Columbia Government will institute an investigation.

According to Dr. Victor Lehner, who contributes a paper on the subject to a recent number of *Economic Geology*, the function of alkaline sulphide solutions in dissolving and transporting gold may be of much greater importance than has hitherto been suspected. From these solutions gold is not precipitated by pyrites. Exposed to the air, the gold is slowly deposited from these solutions. But, under given conditions, they are far more stable than ordinary auric chloride solutions.

Our readers should peruse with care the report of the Casey Cobalt Mining Company, published in this number. The presentation of this annual report in London is one of the really pleasant incidents in the history of Cobalt. The speeches of the two Canadian directors, Messrs. Parker and Watson, record the phenomenal success of Casey. Since Casey was a short time ago a defunct equine, the occasion is all the more pleasing. It makes for strong trans-Atlantic relations.

We take this opportunity of congratulating our contemporaries, *The Engineering and Mining Journal*, of New York, and *The Mining and Scientific Press*, of San Francisco, on the remarkable excellencies of their respective "review numbers," issued during the present month. The volume of statistical and technological information contained in these issues is little short of astonishing. In practically every instance the contributors are recognized authorities on the subjects of which they treat.

Sir James Grant, the distinguished medical adviser of Canada's former Governor-General, is reported in a New York despatch as having given an interview that is unique in many respects. Sir James refers to the "asphalt" sands of the West, to the possible "tubing" of gas or coal (the text is a trifle obscure) to Edmonton, and to the fact that Canada at large possesses at least fifty thousand tons of iron ore reserves. These and other statements of Sir James are presented to the casual reader as "news."

COBALT TOWNSITE.

The following cable gives the estimated mining results for week ended 18th January: "Value of production, £4,714; operating expenses, £1,726; weekly profit, £2,988."

NOVA SCOTIA STEEL JANUARY OUTPUT.

The output of iron and steel by the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company for January is less than usual owing to the furnaces being repaired. The January output is as follows: Coal mined, 69,000 tons; ore mined, 38,500 tons; pig iron, 4,800 tons; steel made, 5,800 tons.

ALADDIN COBALT CABLE NEWS.

Cables have been received from the company's manager reporting that he has secured for the company the Chambers Ferland property.

LE ROI NO. 2.

Cable: Josie mine report for December: Shipped 2,100 tons of ore and 139 tons of concentrates. The receipts from smelter are \$11,088 (£2,286), being payment for 1,207 tons ore shipped and \$2,458 (£507), being payment for 140 tons concentrates shipped; in all \$13,546 (£2,793). Estimated costs for corresponding period: Development \$8,000, ore production \$11,000, milling \$1,600. Total, \$20,600 (£4,247). No 38 drift (North Annie vein), 300 foot level—Advance 44 feet, of which 25 feet averaged 17 dwts. gold $2\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. copper, over 4 inches. No 9 hanging wall raise, 500 foot level—Advance 14 feet, of which 14 feet averaged 3 dwts. gold and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. copper, over 6 inches. Annie drift, 600 foot level—Advance 41 feet, of which 5 feet averaged 4 dwts. gold and $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. copper, over 3 inches. East Poorman drift, 700 foot level—Advance 132 feet, of which 90 feet averaged 1 oz. 2 dwts. gold and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. copper over 1 foot 10 inches."

RHODESIAN GOLD FOR 1912.

The total output of gold from Rhodesia for the month of December is cabled as 51,716 ozs., valued at £218,661, as against 53,667 ozs., valued at £225,957, in the previous month. This is a decrease on the month of 1,951 ozs. But it will be noticed that the yield of £2,707,368 for the past year constitutes a record, beating the previous best in 1911 by £59,474. There were 171 gold producers last month. The output of other minerals for last month was: Silver, 13,763 ozs.; lead, 47 tons; coal, 19,119 tons; chrome ore, 15,195 tons.

THE ALBERTA COAL INDUSTRY IN 1912.

We learn from an authoritative source that the coal production of this province for the year 1912 was approximately 4,000,000 tons, as compared with an output of 1,694,564 tons in 1911, and of 3,036,757 tons in 1910. The relatively low production in 1911 was, of course ascribable to the protracted strike of coal miners in that year; but the figures for 1912 nevertheless represent a record achievement and are a notable advance on the previous highest return. More than half of the coal at present produced is lignite, although there is a steady gain in bituminous output. Forty-four new mines were opened, mainly in the Edmonton field, during the year. The industrial outlook for 1913 is said to be very promising.