

DANGEROUS OCCUPATIONS COMPARED—If statistics are of any value in estimating the comparative dangers of various occupations, it is clear enough that coal mining is by no means the most perilous of our great industries. The *Laborer* gives a table which shows that the total number of lives lost in July in connection with mining was 68, as against 130 fatalities to seamen and 16 among railway servants. On the other hand, 391 miners were injured during the same month, against 261 seamen and 1,230 railway servants. The obvious inference is that neither in respect of fatal accidents nor injuries can mining be reckoned as the most dangerous of employments.

NEW MINING EXPLOSIVE.—Inventors have been busy lately in the endeavor to discover a safer and cheaper explosive than gunpowder for the blasting of coal. Some interesting experiments were recently carried out at Southport, to determine the relative strength and efficacy of a remarkable new explosive invented by Mr. George Bencke, of Southport. The conditions of test in each case were the same, 10 grammes of the explosive being used. This was placed in a steel mortar loaded with a projectile weighing 35 lbs. All shots were fired at an angle of 55 degrees, with the following results: Gunpowder threw the projectile 51 yards, kynite 88½ yards, benedite, as the new powder is called, 155 yards, and dynamite 161½ yards. Benedite contains no nitro glycerine, and it was also subjected to severe tests as regards handling. Unlike dynamite and explosives generally, says the *Iron and Coal Trades Review*, benedite could not be exploded by either a

blow from a hammer or direct application of flame, an advantage which ensures perfect safety in the use and handling of the explosive. It can only be exploded by means of a detonator. For safety blasting in coal mines, a series of trials have shown that when it is exploded in the presence of highly inflammable mixtures of pit gas and coal dust it will not ignite them. It is further claimed for the new safety explosive that its cost of production is much below that of powerful explosives generally, and it is to be put on the market at a considerably lower price. If this new blasting agent should prove to possess all the advantages set forth, it comes at a most opportune time, when the new regulations as to explosives in mines are causing anything but general satisfaction.

The Ontario Limited Mining Co. has sent two 50 ton lots of quartz for treatment at the Mikado mill.

There are fourteen veins on the company's location, twelve of which have been prospected to some extent, as much as 900 feet of stripping having been done on some of the veins. Several pits have also been sunk on the more promising veins, with the result that all show up almost equally as well as each other.

The construction of the 20 stamp mill of Ottawa Mining and Milling Co. at Keewatin is being rapidly pushed forward. It is expected to be running by the end of next month.



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