

come is higher than 1,200 florins (\$490) are not required to insure. As members of the "family" are reckoned the parents, parents-in-law and grandparents, if they live in the same house with the laborer. In this particular the Dutch law differs from the German sick insurance, which does not render it obligatory to insure the worker's family. The insurance can take place either in a district bank instituted by the government and subsidized by the state, or in any private or corporate insurance company, provided such institution shall give a sufficient guaranty to the government of its ability to fulfill its obligations to the district bank. The premium is paid by the employer, who deducts the amount from the worker's wages.

The insured are divided into ten classes, according to the wages earned. The lowest class contains those earning less than 40 cents (Dutch currency) a day and the highest comprises those earning 3.25 florins or more. Those belonging to the lowest class pay only two-thirds of their own premium and the whole of that for their family, the rest is paid by the employer. The tariffs of the district banks are settled by the minister and published in the official gazette. The tariff of the private insurance companies is regulated, according to their receipts and outlay. All insurance companies must have a reserve fund. The state will supervise all the private companies and workmen's co-operative societies and see that the law is strictly carried out.

In case of death no burial money will be paid as the government considers that such might lead to evil practices. Besides private burial societies and insurance are very general in Holland.

#### COBALT'S CAPITALIZATION.

Companies may come and companies may go, but Cobalt will mine for a very long time. This seems to sum up the opinion of the men who have faith in the camp, though not in every company whose alleged object is Cobalt's exploitation. The mines of Cobalt are now capitalized at something like \$365,515,000. The capital which is being put up every week now, is on an average, four hundred times as much as that represented during the whole of 1903, when the camp was in its infancy. In 1903, companies, capitalized at \$25,000 were incorporated; last year the capitalization of new companies had increased by more than eight hundred thousand per cent. The following table shows the figures in detail:

Year	Capitalization of Companies.
1903.....	\$ 25,000
1904.....	10,000,000
1905.....	7,000,000
1906.....	240,000,000
Jan. 5th., to March 23rd. '07	111,000,000
A total of.....	365,000,000

Doubtless every Cobalt company intends to pay a dividend. Or perhaps a better method of expression is, that the shareholders of each company are expecting a dividend—some day. If all the existing companies were to pay, say, 3 per cent, this would mean a dividend distribution of \$10,965,450. But after making certain allowances this sum is likely to be reduced considerably. In fact one might deduct almost the ten millions to commence with.

Comparatively speaking only a very small number of the mines actually are shipping ore. Dividends cannot be paid unless ore is mined and shipped and smelted. There are as yet some dozen or more shipping

mines—these, out of a total of many hundreds which have been incorporated. No one, and especially those who have visited the camp, doubt its potentialities in silver production. The output this year is likely to be large. But when one steps from the camp into the stock markets values are not ascertainable so easily.

#### WORLD'S COPPER PRODUCTION.

The total copper production of the world was in 1904, 652,000, in 1905, 697,000, and in 1906, 738,000 metric tons.

Last year, and for the two previous years, Canada has taken eighth place as a copper producing country. In 1904 the total output was 21,500 metric tons (1908 pounds) in 1905, 24,000 add in 1906, 24,000.

In 1906 there was an increase of 5.6 per cent. over the previous year. The increase of output in the United States being 19,866 tons, or 51.1 per cent. of the total increase. Australia comes second on the list, with Japan third; the output of the Dominion remaining the same. A large percentage of the copper produced is now being used for electrical purposes. In the United States alone 383,352 tons were used in 1906, nearly 74 per cent. of all the copper produced and imported. British Columbia and Ontario are the two main contributors to Canada's output, the former supplying about 79 per cent., the latter about 18.5 per cent. In British Columbia the mines of the Boundary camp are estimated to have contributed about three-quarters of the output of the province; Rossland being the second in importance, with the mines operated along the Pacific Coast making up the balance. The rest of the Dominion output is represented by the copper contents of the nickle-copper mattes shipped from the Sudbury mines, with a small contribution from Quebec, representing the copper contents of the pyrites ore shipped from the mines of the Eastern Townships district. Throughout the whole country the much higher prices ruling for the metal have stimulated the search for new deposits and the re-opening of old mines, some of which will contribute to this year's production.

#### NOVA SCOTIA AT JAMESTOWN.

During the last few months, so many enquiries have been made to the Government about Nova Scotia gold, iron and coal mines, that the Government has decided, at the request of many interested parties in the States, to have a first class mineral exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition.

Not only are the foreign capitalists that have lately become interested in Nova Scotia mines urging the desirability of such an exhibit, but the local people interested in Nova Scotia mines are very much in favor of it.

There is ample material at hand from the numerous mines for a first class exhibit. We have in this province some of the biggest bituminous coal mines in the world. Indeed we have in the Foord seam, with its 45 to 50 feet of coal, the biggest seam of bituminous coal ever opened. It is claimed that iron abounds in almost every county in the province, though owing to lack of proper and systematic prospecting in only one of the counties is the ore being mined. We have gold mines that have proven and are still proving their great value. In short, in the way of minerals what have we not.