

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

A company has been formed at Prague with a capital of 500,000 crowns to develop the coal fields belonging to Oberfinanzrath Kress at Hotomitz, near Dux, Bohemia.

BULGARIA.

The mining industry is being gradually developed with the aid of foreign capital, a number of British capitalists and mining experts having made exhaustive researches in this field. A British company has obtained a concession for working a copper mine at Belogradchik. Copper is also to be found at Vratza and near the Black Sea port of Bowigas. Concessions have been granted by the government for coal, iron, lead and zinc mines in various localities.

CHINA.

A Chinese company has been organized with a capital of \$2,000,000 to open iron and coal mines near Awtow, 55 miles northwest of Tsuantsiu. English engineers have charge of the development work and of the construction of 50 miles of railroad in connection with the mines.

UNITED STATES.

The following figures showing the mineral and metallic production of the United States for 1907 are published by the *Engineering and Mining Journal* as being a close approximation to the actual output, a portion of the returns for December being based on estimates.

Non-metallic.—Coal, bituminous, short tons, 383,480,080; value, \$441,949,931; changes in quantity, I. 41,850,957. Coal, anthracite, short tons, 85,063,264; value, \$159,942,986; changes in quantity, I. 12,853,698. Garnet, short tons, 6,500; value, \$216,125; changes in quantity, I. 1,096. Iron ore, long tons, 52,418,755; value \$110,079,385; changes in quantity, I. 3,201,266. Limestone flux, long tons, 14,925,000; value, \$10,447,500; changes in quantity, I. 373,000. Petroleum, barrels, 165,788,906; value, \$118,408,409; changes in quantity, I. 34,106,401. Phosphate rock, long tons, 1,917,000; value, 13,419,000; changes in quantity, D. 135,742.

Manufactured.—Bromine, pounds, 1,062,000; value, \$138,060; changes in quantity, D. 167,000. Coke, short tons, 40,090,670; value, \$106,757,970; I. 7,400,308. Copper sulphate, pounds, 40,138,117; value, \$2,733,405; changes in quantity, D. 10,787,815. Copperas, short tons, 25,212; value, \$262,120; changes in quantity, I. 4,373. Graphite, artificial, pounds, \$6,924,000; value, 483,717; changes in quantity, I. 2,056,000. Lead, sublimed white, short tons, 8,700; value, \$1,026,600; changes in quantity, I. 712. Zinc oxide, short tons, 83,280; value, \$7,516,360; changes in quantity, I. 5,480.

Metallic.—Aluminum, pounds, 25,000,000; value, \$11,250,000; changes in quantity, I. 10,650,000. Copper, pounds, 895,104,000; value, \$184,937,437; changes in quantity, D. 22,516,000. Gold, oz. fine, 4,335,560; value, \$9,616,017; changes in quantity, D. 312,825. Iron, pig, long tons, 25,975,944; value, \$892,251,523; changes in quantity, I. 668,753. Lead, short tons, 359,058; value, 38,239,677; changes in quantity, I. 13,529. Quicksilver, flasks, 19,900; value, \$805,950; changes in quantity, D. 5,409. Silver, oz. fine, 56,925,911; value, \$37,187,990; changes in quantity, I. 742,411. Zinc, short tons, 246,688; value, \$29,415,077; changes in quantity, I. 21,194.

The zinc separating plant in operation at the Lexington mine of La France Copper Company, Butte, Montana, is declared to be completely successful and likely to prove of great advantage to

the mines in the neighborhood which have on hand quantities of silver-zinc ore. This ore carries silver, gold, copper, lead, iron and zinc, but on account of the predominance of the latter metal the copper smelters have been unable to treat it except at a heavy loss. The new system which has been in operation in Texas for some years saves every metal in the ore.

MEXICO.

Oil in good quantities has been found in three wells drilled by W. R. Hearst and James Keene near Ojinaga in Eastern Chihuahua. One is down 4,000 and another 1,400 feet.

Miners throughout Mexico are being called on to accept reductions in wages of from 25 to 75 cents per day, the reasons assigned being the low price of metals and the increase in the supply of labor caused by the closing down of mines.

VENEZUELA.

President Castro has annulled the contract made by the government with the Venezuelan Salt Monopoly, Limited, an English corporation, signed in 1905, leasing certain salt mines and giving them a monopoly of the sale of salt for ten years.

AUSTRALASIA.

The Queensland Government announce that recent tests of coal from the Government mine on Dawson River have proved satisfactory, the indication being that it is a fuel similar to some of the American anthracites requiring a forced draught for its proper combustion.

A bulletin of the New Zealand Geological Survey gives a description of the large deposit of iron ore situated on the shores of Parapara Inlet, which has so far been left practically untouched. The ore occurs in three enormous blocks, the amount contained in the Washbourn block being estimated at 22,691,762 tons. In 34 samples taken from this block the average iron content was 51.79 per cent. The ore is mainly limonite, though partly gothite and possibly turgite, and phosphorus, sulphur and other impurities do not occur in serious quantities. The deposits are all in accessible localities.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The annual report of the Orange River Colony Mines Department for the year ending June 30th, 1907, states that there was a marked increase in the coal output. The total tonnage produced during the year was 499,590 tons, value £139,674, as against 263,232 tons for the previous year. Keen competition among coal operators in the Transvaal has resulted in price-cutting, which has reached against further development, but prices in the Transvaal have recently been raised by a combine.

Great activity has been shown lately by prospectors for diamonds in Orange River, especially in the neighborhoods of Boshof and Smaldeel. Though the number in the field was unprecedented, the Mines Department report for 1906-97 notes that no discovery of a payable mine was reported, though one or two finds may ultimately prove valuable.

The gold output of the Transvaal for November was 549,801 ounces, valued at £2,335,406, a slight decrease from the production for October.