

mining. The establishment will include an explosive gallery, rescue room, observation house, lamp testing room and explosives laboratory. Tests will be made by the pendulum and the trawl methods.

The production of coal in the United States in 1906 was 369,678,200 tons, valued at \$512,610,744, and an increase of 5.4 per cent. in quantity and 7.5 per cent. in value over the returns for the preceding year. Pennsylvania, of course, continues to occupy the first place in point of tonnage output, the contribution of this State being 48.4 per cent. of the country's total production. The second coal-producing State of the Union is now West Virginia, which has supplanted Illinois in this respect.

According to a report from Tacoma, Wash., the Tacoma Tin Smelting Hydraulic Company has arranged to secure necessary capital for the equipment and operation of its properties in the Clarence and other districts southwest of Nome, by giving a mortgage thereon to the Milwaukee Trust Company, of Milwaukee, to secure a \$5,000,000 bond issue. Reference to this tin deposit has been made on more than one occasion by the United States Geological Survey, and there can be no doubt that the prospects for successful working are promising.

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

A correspondent writing to *The Colliery Guardian* describes in a very interesting manner existing labor conditions on the Rand. There is still, he remarks, a considerable shortage of cheap mine labor, although the situation has been greatly relieved by the importation of Chinese, who are paid by contract at the rate of a halfpenny an inch in the stopes, with a bonus of threepence on 36 inches, another of twopence on 48 inches and a third bonus of threepence on 73 inches, the 1-2d. an inch running all through. Unfortunately, however, the Chinese do not usually do more than 36 inches a day, as they are satisfied to earn just sufficient to provide themselves with opium and tobacco. This statement will not sound convincing to our Western readers, whose experience of Chinese is that they are indefatigable workers with the one main object in view of earning sufficient money to allow them to return to their own country on a competence. But the explanation may be that the South African coolie is of an even lower type than his fellow-countryman in Canada.

#### AUSTRALIA.

Canada has still some distance to go before rivalling Australia's record as a mineral-producing country. If, however, gold be excluded our showing is quite comparable; but Australia continues to produce gold to the value annually of twice that of all other minerals combined. Thus last year the Commonwealth's mineral output, exclusive of gold, was valued at £12,149,405, or rather less than that of Canada, which in round figures, gold also being excluded, was \$68,000,000, or perhaps £14,000,000. Our gold yield reached a value of \$12,000,000 only, while Australia in the last two years has contributed £30,000,000 worth of the mineral to the world's supply.

Referring to the rather slow progress of the zinc industry at Broken Hill, an Australian paper remarks:—

At present there are five wet processes on the field—the Potter, Delprat, Cattermole, De Bavay, and Elmore, with the Gillies adoption of the Potter process to swell the total. So far, except at the Broken Hill Proprietary mine, where the Delprat process is worked, production is not on a large scale. The Cattermole process is understood to be giving satisfactory results at the Sulphide Corporation works and at the Zinc Corporation plant at the British mine, and the De Bavay process is said to be doing well at the North mine. It is clear, however, that expectations as to the rapidity with which the vast heaps of tailings were to be turned to account have been far from realized. All the talk of the profits that were to come, not only from the zinc recovered, but

also from the associated lead and silver, have so far not been realized. The story that the Proprietary company were netting 40s. per ton on each ton of tails treated, therefore, is now relegated to the position it ought always to have occupied in the realms of fancy. Of course, with so many experimenters at work, advances in methods of treatment are being made, but that is about the best that can be said at the moment.

According to the official report recently issued, last year was one of exceptional activity and prosperity in the metalliferous mining industry in New South Wales, production having increased to the extent of 15 per cent. or £1,083,731 greater value than that of the 1905 production. At the same time this increase was very largely due to the rise in metal values, although an increased production is shown in copper and zinc. One interesting item in the return is in respect to precious stone output, the State having produced diamonds to the value of £2,120 and opals to the value of £56,000.

### COMPANY NOTES

The bond issue of the International Coal & Coke Company, listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, is \$300,000, instead of \$3,000,000, as reported. The capital stock of \$3,000 is divided into one dollar shares.

The directors of the Mond Nickel Company, Limited, recommend for the year to April 30th a dividend of 12 1-2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and a dividend of 33 per cent. on the deferred shares, placing £20,000 to reserve, carrying forward £18341. For 1905-6 the ordinary shares got 10 per cent., and the deferred shares 10 per cent.

At a meeting of the directors of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company, held this afternoon, two of the three vacancies on the board, caused by the resignations of Messrs. Pearson, Wood and W. B. Ross, were filled by the appointment of Messrs. George Caverhill and W. G. Ross, of Montreal. The appointment of a successor to Mr. W. B. Ross was deferred to a later date.

The Pittsburg Testing Laboratory Company have filed a petition at Osgood Hall for the winding up of the Stanley Smelter Works of Bannockburn, Hastings County. The claim is a protested cheque for \$350. The treasurer of the company admits that it is indebted to the extent of \$40,000, and is in trouble financially. About \$70,000 of capital has been subscribed.

West Kootenay Power & Light Company, Limited (B.C.).—A meeting of the holders of the first mortgage sinking fund gold coupon bonds will be held in Montreal on July 22nd to consider, and, if deemed advisable, pass a resolution authorizing the execution of a deed to the Royal Trust Company as trustees, providing for the payment of the bonds with interest thereon in sterling or Canadian currency.

Snowshoe Gold & Copper Mines (B.C.).—A meeting of this company was held in London last month. The directors submitted a report for the year ending September 30th, 1906, to the following effect:—During the greater part of the year the Snowshoe mine was closed down pending the completion of satisfactory arrangements for dealing with the property. On June 23rd an agreement was signed leasing the mine to the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada, Limited. Under this agreement rather more than 6,000 tons of ore had been sent to the smelters, averaging approximately .08 ounces gold, .3 ounces silver, and 1.4 per cent. copper. The total royalties received thereon amounted to £1,997. Since the close of the financial year the original lease had been cancelled by mutual consent, and a new lease substituted, the terms of which were considered to be more advantageous to the company.

At a meeting of the Foster-Cobalt Mining Company's shareholders on June 27th it was decided to issue treasury stock. The amount of the issue is left to the discretion of the directorate. The stock is to be offered for fifteen days after July 10th at a