

dollars. At the time of his death Mr. Wilson was in New York in connection with the financing of this corporation, and had met with excellent success.

A sketch of this scheme and what it entails was published in the number of the Canadian Mining Journal dated Dec. 1st, 1915.

As the work of construction of the plant of the corporation has been begun and great expenditures of money have been made already, in connection with the surveying of the territories which the corporation owns, the Reid Newfoundland Co., who are very largely interested in the scheme, does not anticipate that the work will be discontinued, although activities will no doubt be postponed somewhat by the sudden demise of Mr. Wilson.

At the present time a coal famine prevails at St. John's. Coal is selling for \$8.00 per ton, and in a few days it is expected that the price will go much higher.

A Mr. Snow of the district of Trinity Bay made last month what promises to become a most valuable gold find. Mr. Snow is a fisherman of that district, and the find was purely by accident. Several samples were recently subjected to an assay, the yield of gold was large, and in the spring a commencement of operations on the find is authoritatively spoken of.

The steatite for the lining of the furnaces of the smelter now being erected by Mr. W. A. Mackay is now landing from steamer at St. John's. This material has been imported from America.

THE WORLD'S DEEPEST MINE.

Where is the deepest mine in the world? That is a question very few people in this country can answer correctly. Even most mining experts would probably make a wrong guess—unless they had made rather exhaustive inquiries anent the subject—for it is located in a section of the world where you would least expect to find it. In the forests which cover the hills that cluster about the mouth of the mine wild monkeys are chattering and jumping about from limb to limb of the graceful palms which afford them food as well as shelter, while among the bright-hued flowers exquisite orchids waft their perfume and display their beauty for the benefit of these impish progenitors of man. Birds of rare plumage flit in and out among the shadows and the gorgeous red-blue-yellow macaws add their raucous voices to the medley of sounds, while splendid butterflies wave their large wings of iridescent blue and green and gold to enhance the riot of color in these tropic realms.

Tropic realms? Verily, for the deepest mine—gold or of any other metal—is located in Brazil. It is near a place bearing the euphonious name of Villa Nova de Lima, in the State of Minas Geraes, about 330 miles north of Rio de Janeiro. It has been worked, more or less systematically, for something over 80 years, and yet few of us have ever heard of the place, much less of the mine, which is known as the Morro Velho and is owned and operated by an English company.

Last year two young professors of geology, Benjamin Le Roy Miller, of Lehigh University, and Joseph T. Singewald, Jr., of Johns Hopkins, struck out for foreign parts and wended their way even into the hidden recesses of South America with the view of finding out something in regard to the mineral resources of the western hemisphere. They investigated almost all of the known mining districts of the southern continent and brought back with them a vast store of in-

formation relative to the mineral wealth of the various countries visited. In Brazil they visited this unusual and in some respects unrivalled gold mine. They tell about it in an article in the December number of the Bulletin of the Pan-American Union (Washington, D.C.), from which the following facts are taken.

The Morro Velho mine is located in the gold belt of Brazil, where the Portuguese were first induced to settle by the discovery of the yellow metal. The first gold was discovered in 1699 near the present city of Ouro Preto. The gold was coated with a black substance and hence was called "ouro preto"—black gold. The city which they founded was long called Villa Rica de Ouro Petro—the Rich City of Black Gold—a name which was somewhat cumbersome even for the Portuguese, so they finally shortened it to just Ouro Preto, the name by which it is known to-day.

Just when the Morro Velho mine was first opened is not known, but it was being operated toward the close of the 18th century, and considerable work had been done when the present company obtained control of it in 1834. The orebody consists of a great vein of unusual persistence and regularity that dips at an angle of about 45 degrees. It may be likened to a gigantic knife blade, held vertically and thrust into the earth at this angle with the point still lower than the present deepest workings. The combined depths of the connected shafts give a total of 5,824 feet. In other words, here is a gold mine that is being worked at a depth of more than a mile below the surface of the earth. Now be it remembered that the rock temperatures increase as the earth's crust is penetrated, in some regions the increase being as much as 1 degree F. for each 50 to 60 feet increase in depth. At this rate the temperature at the bottom of this mine would be over 100 degrees higher than at the surface, and fried ham and eggs might be prepared for the miners without any other heating apparatus than the loose rocks lying about. Incidentally the miners would be going through the frying process, too. Fortunately, however, in this mine the rate of increase of temperature is only 1 degree for every 100 to 120 feet, giving the rocks a temperature of only 112 degrees. By forcing cool air down into the mine by means of fans the temperature is lowered to a little less than 100 degrees. Even at that it is rather snug, and the miners usually wear only shoes, donning trousers when company is expected. Still, the mine has produced a total of about \$55,000,000 worth of gold, and is being worked now at a profit of something over \$700,000 annually.

SILVER PRICES.

	New York cents.	London pence.
December, 1915—		
23	54	25½
24	53¾	25¾
27	53¾	Holiday
28	54¼	25¾
29	54¾	26
30	54¾	26½
31	55	26¼
January, 1916—		
3	55¾	26½
4	56¼	26¾
5	56½	26¾
6	56¾	26¾
7	56¾	26½