

MINING NEWS OF THE WORLD.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Dolcoath's new shaft has now been completed. It is three thousand feet deep, vertical from the surface, is lined throughout its entire depth with nine inch brick, and is seventeen feet nine inches in diameter—inside measurement. It is considered to be the finest piece of work of its kind in the West of England, and numerous mining engineers and others have visited it during the progress of the work. The contractors (Messrs. Piggott) have opened up the entrance to the north and south headings at the bottom, or five hundred fathom level, and are now engaged sinking below this point in order to make a sump for this new shaft, after which they will continue to drive from the south heading to intersect the Dolcoath lode.

At the Home Office April 21st, Mr. Churchill received a deputation consisting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, the Miners' Federation, Durham and Northumberland deputies and enginemen and the Wind Enginemen's Federation, who urged him to embody in a Bill some of the recommendations suggested by the Royal Commission on Accidents in Mines.

Mr. Churchill congratulated the deputation upon the steady progress made in adapting the whole industry to the conditions of the Eight Hours Act. The Home Office would give effect to the view that pump miners' hours were not applicable to bona fide hauliers. The great bulk of the recommendations of the Royal Commission required legislation to give effect to them, and at present great delay hung over all legislation. In addition, the Commission had not completed its labours and it would be better that a Bill for regulating the work of coal mines should cover the whole ground. He thought the inspectors should be strengthened, but the difficulty of money came up. There was to be a conference with mine owners at the end of May with a view to ascertaining how best to improve and systematize rescue apparatus and working. The Treasury had sanctioned the provision of a testing station, and they were now looking for a suitable site. In conclusion, Mr. Churchill said that when the Bill came to be framed, if he was responsible for the task, he should confer not only with employers, but with representatives of the men and make sure that the measure did contain practical points.

At the special meeting of the Coal Conciliation Board of South Wales and Monmouthshire, held at Cardiff, April 8th, the clauses of the new agreement were discussed, and steps were taken to insert the terms agreed upon which the workmen have balloted. No serious difficulty arose during the discussion and the agreement was duly signed by the representatives of the owners and workmen, with the exception of Mr. C. B. Stanton, miners' agent for Aberdare, who stated he could not sign because the majority of the men in his district had voted against the acceptance of the new terms.

The result of the ballot of the miners employed in the South Wales coalfield was an overwhelming vote in favour of the signing of the new agreement. The official figures were:—

For the agreement	97,273
Against the agreement	34,963
Majority for	62,310

The ballot thus brings to a satisfactory and peaceful settlement the protracted negotiations which have been in progress between the representatives of the coal-owners and the men since December last. The new agreement is for a period of five years.

Manchester, Friday, May 13th.—One hundred and thirty-seven miners lost their lives in an explosion in the Wellington coal

mine at White Haven. Rescue parties succeeded in saving four men, but fire has broken out in the works, leaving practically no hope for those who are still entombed.

Throughout the day rescue parties made considerable progress at the mine, but their work was stopped by the collapse of the roof.

It is curious that a colliery warning was published in many of the newspapers in the mining districts of the Kingdom yesterday to the effect that an unusually high barometric condition rendered fire-damp explosions extremely probable, and that underground workers ought therefore to be on the alert. The barometer reached the highest reading in the White Haven district.

King Gorge sent a message of sympathy to the owners of the colliery.

NORWAY.

Advice has been received from the Sulitelma Company's mines in Norway, that for the month ending April 30th, 1910, 845 tons of concentrates containing 8.18 per cent. copper, were produced by the Elmore process.

GERMANY.

The Dynamite Company (formerly Alfred Nobel & Company), of Hamburg, states, in the report for 1909, that the less favourable situation of the coal and iron and steel industry exercised an influence upon the sales of explosives during the year, but the total turnover was very favourable as more satisfactory results were obtained in other branches of the company's activity. In order to economize freight charges and other expenses, a new factory has been erected at Saarbrücken for the manufacture of dynamite and other explosives, and it was recently set in operation. After appropriating £50,000 for depreciation in 1909, as compared with £34,500 in the preceding year, the accounts show net profits of £144,000, as against £106,000 in 1908, and it is proposed to pay a dividend of 22 per cent., as contrasted with 6½ per cent. in 1908.

TURKEY.

Interesting developments in connection with the petroleum deposits in Turkey are pending. The existence of considerable oil deposits in the vilayets of Morkul, Bagdad and Baskorak has been known for some time past, and it is now intended to commence exploitation in these districts. Refineries are to be built and liquid fuel to be introduced on the railways, in the fleet and in private industry. Rumours are in circulation that an American company has obtained an exclusive concession from the Government for the exploitation of these lands.

EGYPT.

Suez.—The third oil well at Jemshah has become a gusher. Dr. Ball and the staff of the Government Survey Department were present when the well was drilled in. One hundred and eighty tons of oil flowed in the first six hours. The flow was steadily increasing when it was shut off.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Johannesburg.—Mr. W. W. Mein, consulting engineer to Messrs. Ecksteins, is contributing a paper to the Association of Mining Engineers on Rand mine returns, criticizing as unscientific the much-discussed proposal by Mr. H. F. Marriott, consulting engineer to Messrs. Wernher, Beit, to substitute per fathom for per ton in future statistics.