

made by the Lord Mayor that it should take over and work certain mines.

The question of the establishment of State smelting works in Queensland has lately been occupying attention, and the Chief Inspector of Mines has been instructed to report upon the proposals which have been put forward. Owing to the more or less scattered nature of the mineral deposits in Queensland, there are in some districts no treatment works at all available for small quantities of silver, lead or copper ore, and the main objects to determine are whether material assistance to the mining industry will follow as a result of the establishment of smelting works, and whether this industrial field can be entered by the Government without financial loss. The bulk of the State's annual output of gold concentrates results from the treatment of Charters Towers and Ravenswood ore.

UNITED STATES.

California.

The gravel-mining districts in Eldorado county are being more actively worked.

Montana.

An effort is to be made to introduce legislation that will lessen accidents, improve sanitary conditions, and generally regulate the operations of the larger mines of the State. The State Mine Inspector, in his annual report, asserts that of the forty-seven fatalities recorded, the greater number were due to carelessness on the part of the miners.

The strike of the switchmen on the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific is still on. As both roads run into Butte, the mines depending upon these roads, about twelve in all, have been forced to close.

Missouri and Kansas.

During November the Kansas mines produced 3,487,650 lbs. zinc and 302,470 lbs. lead, having a total value of \$97,467.

Arizona.

The United States Smelting, Refining and Mining Company has purchased the entire holdings of the Arizona-Mexican Mining and Smelting Company, which consists of a copper and lead smelter at Needles, Ariz., with a number of developed and semi-developed mines tributary thereto.

In addition to the holdings of the Arizona-Mexican Mining and Smelting Company, the United States Smelting, Refining and Mining Company has acquired a large number of claims in the same neighbourhood. The smelter is so situated as to handle the ore of Southern and Central Nevada, Southern California, Southern Utah and Northern Arizona more economically than any other plant. The ores in the mines that have been taken by this company are mainly silver and lead, and some copper.

Company Notes

The Right of Way Mining Company has declared another dividend of 6 per cent. on the old stock, which is equivalent to .02 per cent. on the new capitalization. Books close on Dec. 20, and dividends are payable on Jan. 1.

CROWN RESERVE MINING CO., LIMITED.

Dividend No. 6.

Notice is hereby given that a special bonus dividend of 10 per cent. has been declared and will be payable on the 20th of December, 1909, to shareholders of record the 10th of December, 1909. Transfer books will be closed from the 11th to the 18th of December, both days inclusive.

Dividend No. 7.

Notice is hereby given that the regular quarterly dividend of 6 per cent. for the three months ending the 31st of December, 1909, and a bonus in addition of 9 per cent. for the same term, making a total payment of 15 per cent., has been declared, and will be payable on the 15th of January, 1910, to shareholders of record the 31st day of December, 1909. Transfer books will be closed from the 1st to the 14th of January, both days inclusive.

STATISTICS AND RETURNS

BRITISH MINERAL OUTPUT IN 1908.

The report on mines and quarries in the United Kingdom for 1908 has just been issued, and places the total value of minerals mined during the year at £130,003,670. During that period 261,528,795 tons of coal were mined with a value of £116,598,884. Of this over 65,500,000 tons were exported.

For the 36 years from 1873 to 1908 inclusive, the total value of the coal output was £2,361,701,000, while the value of other minerals was £500,021,000. The exports of coal have been steadily increasing during the 36 years. In the period 1873 to 1877 the amount exported was 13.8 per cent. of the total output. In

the third 1903 to 1907 the exports had increased to 61.1 per cent., while in 1908 the exports declined to 32.6 per cent.

The depression in trade in 1908 was marked, and had its influence on the mineral output for the year, which was £2,275,418 less than in the year 1907. Of the total decrease in the value of minerals produced in 1908, coal accounted for £3,928,530. The amount of coal retained for home consumption was 176,222,650 tons, or a little less than four tons per head of the population.

The blast furnaces for the manufacture of pig iron consumed 18,842,464 tons, as compared with 21,119,547 tons in 1907.