

company contends that the Roman-Dutch law covers the case and that the agreement is still valid. The Rhodesian settlers bitterly oppose the De Beers people.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Great Northern Railway will rebuild the destroyed parts of the Kaslo and Slocan Railway, which formerly connected Kaslo with Sandon, a distance of 31 miles. The mines between Kaslo and the summit of the divide at Bear Lake are urgently in need of rail connections to Kaslo. New development work on the Rambler-Cariboo has made large bodies of ore accessible. At the Washington mine work also is being done. At present ore is being hauled by sleigh to Three Forks, a station on the C.P.R. line from Sandon to Nakusp.

When low grade mining propositions (and "low grade" is a word that changes in meaning with each mineral) are discussed, it is well to remember that working a low-grade ore for a small margin of profit implies the existence of perfect office and technical staffs and the existence of sound and elastic financial reserves. These requisites cannot be created in a day—particularly the staffs.

The present vigorous condition of the zinc smelting industry in the United States is threatened by the depletion of the natural gas supply in Kansas. In that state are about 20 smelteries, embracing a total of 50,000 retorts. For at least 30,000 of these retorts, gas is employed as fuel. Not more than one-half of them can now be kept in commission, owing to the scarcity of gas. A reversion to coal-fired retorts will take at least two years.

The power problem at Porcupine is to be solved. The Porcupine Power Company, an organization backed by the Timmins-Dunlop-McMartin syndicate, along with Mr. A. M. Bilsky, has placed contracts for equipment

for generating 3,000 horse-power on the Mattagami. Mr. H. D. Symmes is constructing the plant.

The amount for a four-fifths interest in the Hidden Creek mines, bonded by the Granby Consolidated, is reported to be \$400,000. The mines are situated on Goose Bay in the Portland Canal district. The ore is said to average $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. copper, and to correspond in silver and gold content to the Granby ores.

The London mining market has been disturbed by leakage of information. It appears that in certain quarters notice of new developments has been received a week or more before it reached the majority of shareholders. This has occurred in both Rand and Rhodesian companies.

A scurrilous correspondent has suggested that Sir Henry Pellatt's new title might appropriately assume the form of Baron Cobalt-Lake. We have not reproduced our correspondent's frivolous misspelling of "Baron," and we adjure our readers to refrain from guessing.

A most creditable special number is the Cobalt Daily Nugget Mining Industry Edition, issued by the Cobalt Daily Nugget. It is profusely and well illustrated, and the text has been carefully edited. It should be in the hands of all persons interested in our great silver district.

The prices obtaining for zinc blende in Joplin are better than they have been for some time. During the former half of November, carloads of 63 per cent. ore brought as high as \$50.75 net per ton. Lead ores ran as high as \$54.

Nowhere are the good offices of the Geological Survey appreciated more than in British Columbia. Reports on this year's work are looked for with great interest.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ROCK DRILLS—DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND USE, BY EUSTACE M. WESTON, REEF LECTURER ON MINING, TRANSVAAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. 367 PAGES. PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED. PRICE, \$4 NET. MCGRAW-HILL BOOK COMPANY, 239 WEST 39th STREET, NEW YORK, 1910.

The gaps in professional handbooks are being gradually and well filled. This latest addition to the list of practical books will be welcomed by many.

Until now, there has been no attempt to cover the whole subject of rock drills. We have needed, particularly, a comparison of English, Australian and American drills. Such a comparison is necessary to aid the engineer in his choice of machine for his special needs.

The successive subjects treated are: standard piston drills; hammer drills; electric drills; operating on sur-

face and underground; piston drills using air exclusively; philosophy of drilling rock; repair and maintenance of rock drills; drill steel and drill bits; explosives and their use; theory of blasting with high explosives; examples of drill practice in Africa, Australia, and America; drill tests and contests; dust and its prevention; notes on the use of compressed air. It will be seen that the scope of the book is large and that the sequence is logical.

Among the most interesting incidentals in the book is the Chronological Table, transcribed from Messrs. Holman Brothers' catalogue. From this we are reminded that Friar Albert Magnus described an explosive powder in the year 1280 A.D. In 1412 gunpowder was manufactured in England. In 1613, most significant event, Martin Weigel, mining superintendent, of Frei-