ready attained an output of 45 tons of tin oxide a month.

The "Oil war" is well with us now. When the news first came to hand that the "Shell" Transport Company "whose interests are now combined with the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company," had torn up its agreement with the Standard Oil Company of America, considerable anxiety was caused among shareholders of European oil companies, especially the recently created Maikop concerns. More mature consideration caused many experts to declare, however, that no war exists and that the cut in prices was merely rendered necessary by the enormous accumulation of oil stocks.

The enormous surplus awaiting consumption, taken in conjunction with the development of the new Russian field at Maikop and the threatened intrusion of further new fields such as that just being exploited in Persia and the deposits discovered in the northern part of the Island of Sakhalin in Siberia, has produced a situation which would practically compel reduced prices. Oil shares have therefore largely recovered the losses sustained when the war was first announced. Oil investors here are encouraged by the theory that the more oil there is produced the more the demand for it will spread. This theory is supported by the results of the use of oil on steamships and on railways where the only difficulty has lain in obtaining regular supplies. It is held, therefore, that if the ultimate result of the oil war is to increase consumption of oil as fuel it will prove a blessing in disguise to those producers who are in a position to readily market their crude oil.

With regard to Maikop most conflicting statements continue to be issued. An interview with the Russian Minister of Finance declares that it is quite a mistaken impression that the Russian Government does not favour foreign enterprise in Russia. With regard to British Maikop companies, the Russian Government may, however, consider it necessary to require some guarantee that the work of prospecting with oil will be substantially carried out. It is possible that some standard of requirements may be fixed to which all companies applying for recognition must conform.

A "Times" correspondent who has recently gone all over the oil field comes to the conclusion that the country is satisfactory. An important factor is, however, developing. It was thought originally by geologists and experts that the Maikop field had a length of some 20 or more miles and a width of at least four or five miles. As the result of sinking wells the latest expert opinion is that for all practical drilling purposes the width of the field may not be more than a mile. In the course of the next few months a great deal of valuable information will be obtainable as the results of many borings become known. Of course, even if the field were to be only a mile in length instead of four or five miles, it could still be a great oil field. What we are waiting for, however, are trustworthy data.

All kinds of delays are taking place in connection with the official recognition of titles, the definition of boundaries, and the right to work. Old and experienced drillers, however, from Baku, Galicia, Roumania and California are actively employed on the field. It is said that 60 wells are sunk or in the process of drilling, with derricks being erected.

Whilst on Russia a word might be said of that empire's rapidly advancing copper production. From being an importer Russia is gradually turning into an exporter, her production having increased in ten years from 445,000 poods to 1,116,920 poods. The imports of copper have shrunk in five years from 1,262,000 poods to 213,000 poods. Electrolysis has been the critical question, but it is now being got over, the production of electrolytic copper advancing by leaps and bounds. The great Russian copper fields are the Urals, the Caucasus and Siberia. The production for the first half of this year shows a further rapid increase which, if continued, will make Russia's whole production for 1910 close upon one and a half million poods. The world's increasing consumption of copper will render it necessary to open up still further copper fields. (One pood equals 36 pounds.)

Many reports are to hand here with regard to fresh great deposits. In Asia Minor, in the neighbourhood of Diarbekir, there already are rich producing mines working ore that has an average of 30 per cent. copper, 40 per cent. iron and 30 per cent. sulphur, but beyond these there are great deposits which have not been tapped extending along the Black Sea shore near to the port of Trebizonde in which copper ores exist to a great, but unknown, extent in conjunction with manganese. Further afield, on the borders of Thibet from the Kansu Province of China, one hears extraordinary accounts of immensely rich and widespread deposits. An experimental plant has been put down to the order of the Chinese Government under British management which may be the beginning of an industrial revolution in that remote part of the country. The spot selected is in a valley about 100 miles west of the city of Sanchowfu and the experimental plant is capable of treating 50 tons a day.

The obstacle to treatment earlier here lies in the fact that the ore has an enormous capping of "loess" which in some places is 200 feet thick. So high is the opinion of the Chinese Government with regard to the copper possibilities of Kansu Province that although gold mining concessions are freely granted there the imperial authorities intend to keep the control of the copper in their own hands.

A private cable from Johannesburg to London states that during September the Rand mines alone crushed 1,835,647 tons of gold, the total profit being $4,711,650. The average yield per ton works out at 28 shillings and 3 pence and as the working costs figure out at 17 shillings and 11 pence, the profit per ton is 10 shillings and 4 pence. It will be observed that in the 30 days of September the tonnage crushed was slightly more than in the 31 days of August with an increase also in the daily average profit as compared with that month.

A special event on the field was the virtual completion of the new reduction works of the City Deep mine. It is curious to note how conservative the Rand has been and what a long time it was in taking the tube mill from Australia and the Butters Vacuum Filter process from the United States and Mexico. Returning to the City Deep, the present plant is designed to handle 65,000 tons per month. Ore coming from the western shaft is dumped by five-ton skips over grizzlies into fine and coarse ore bins up against the steel headgear. The main ore bin has a capacity of 1,000 tons, and above it is the preliminary crushing plant. Hopper bottom doors operated by compressed air are fitted to the bin, and through these doors the crushed ore and fines are discharged into trucks for transport to the mill. A similar crusher station will be erected at the eastern shaft when the scale of crushing is increased.

The line up to the mill is over a mile long, mostly on embankment. The train of ore will consist of four (or more) 40-ton all-steel Klussman trucks. They will be drawn by an electric locomotive consisting of two 25-ton, six-wheeled halves coupled, and will be of 150 h.p The locomotive will operate on 2,000 volt, 50 cycle,