

Three of the five lower levels of the Silver King have been unwatered. Four machine drills are now in operation, and 26 men are employed.

The Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co., of Trail, have taken a two and a half year bond on the Queen Victoria mine. The mine is equipped with the most modern machinery, and shipments of ore to the Trail smelter will begin immediately.

Ymir.—H. L. Rodgers, of Spokane, who recently took bonds on the Canadian Girl and American Girl mines, has secured possession of the Yukon property. The Yukon adjoins the American Girl, and the intention is to combine the two properties. The price paid was \$35,000.

Vancouver.—The Nuba and Early Bird Mining Companies will jointly install a 20-stamp mill on their claims at Gold Harbor on the west coast of Moresby Island, Queen Charlotte Islands. The order for the plant has been placed in Germany.

The Nuba Company owns fifty-four claims near Gold Harbor. Twenty men have been engaged at development work since last autumn.

At Rose Spit, Queen Charlotte Island, preparations are under way for prospecting and working the black sand in that vicinity.

Victoria.—The Government has introduced a bill for the amendment of the Mineral Act. Section 8 is amended by making clearer the penalty for mining without a miner's license.

Another change is simplification of the proof required to vest in man the share of a partner or co-owner who has allowed his free miner's license to lapse.

Section 36, regarding the obtaining of a certificate of improvements prior to the issuance of a Crown grant, is amended to provide that prior to obtaining a Crown grant a certificate of improvement or improvements has to be obtained from the Gold Commissioner, and prior to that again a certificate of work from the Mining Recorder. In future the life of the certificate of work will be but three months. This provision is not to come into force until April 1st, 1910.

Another minor change is the charging of a fee of \$10, instead of \$5, for the issuance of a Crown grant of the surface rights of a mineral claim.

MINING NEWS OF THE WORLD.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The coal owners have applied to the Coal Conciliation Board for the federated mining districts in England and North Wales for a 5 per cent. reduction in the existing rate of wages. The Board could come to no agreement on the subject, so the matter was referred to Lord James of Hereford, the independent chairman, for his casting vote.

The Board of Trade returns for the month ending January 31st, 1909, are: Tin—Imports 3,564 tons, value £465,702; exports, 993 tons, value £129,975. Copper—Imports, metal, 8,180 tons (£502,894); ores, 7,727 tons (£75,150); exports, 2,870 tons (£196,673). Lead—Imports, 18,613 tons (£246,694); exports, 2,765 tons (£45,084).

GERMANY.

An amalgamation of German zinc works, with the co-operation of a large number of Belgian, French, Dutch and Austrian zinc firms, has been completed in Berlin, under the title of the Zinc Smelters' Association, Limited, with a capital of 2,047,000 marks. The basis for an international agreement with other European spelter firms has already been arranged.

RUSSIA.

The latest figures available concerning asbestos production show that there were 25 mines in operation, employing 1,900 men, and the output amounted to 15,970,285 lbs. The mines are in the Ural Mountains, in the Province of Perm, also in the Altai Mountains of Siberia.

INDIA.

With a view to encouraging the study of mining, the Government of Bengal, East Bengal and Assam intend to give scholarships to students, who will study the subject in the Shibpur Engineering College.

AUSTRALASIA.

The tin mines of Tasmania employed during the last quarter of 1908 a total of 1,747 men, 1,461 of whom were Europeans and the balance Chinese.

The gold productions of the various states for January are as follows: Queensland, 24,500 oz., or \$506,415; Victoria, 40,848 oz., or \$844,328; Western Australia, 132,267 oz., or \$2,713,959; New South Wales, 19,885 oz., or \$411,023.

The mineral production of New South Wales for the year 1908 is valued at £8,609,607, including £954,854 for gold, £2,947,824 for lead and silver, £502,812 for copper, £205,447 for tin, £3,353,093 for coal. The coal production was 9,147,028 tons.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Natal Government has appointed a commission to revise the mining laws of the colony; to advise as to the best means of encouraging and assisting the development of the mineral resources of the colony, especially in regard to gold and base metals, and to advise as to the necessity for reorganizing the Mines Department.

The output of Cassiterite in the Transvaal for 1908 was 1,427 tons, of a total value of £97,188. Practically the whole of this has been mined from the Waterbury district.

The scheme for supplying the Rand mines with electric power provides for many of the mines using this power by the beginning of next year. In order to do this it will be necessary to convert their present steam plants to electric working installations.

WEST AFRICA.

The West African Chamber of Mines states that the gold yield of the colony for January was 22,817 oz., valued at £91,112, a decrease of 1,807 oz., or £7,150 compared with the preceding month.

UNITED STATES.

Goldfield, Nevada, has been selected as the place for the next annual convention of the American Mining Congress.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, in the Department of Commerce and Labor, the value of copper and manufactures of copper exported during December was \$6,958,710, which compares with \$11,337,544 in corresponding month of year previous. The total copper exported during 1908 amounted to \$90,555,503, as compared to \$100,800,355 in 1907.