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## GOLD MINING ON THE RAND

The past few weeks have been marked by serious riots at Johannesburg. According to press reports several men have been killed in the streets by the government police and soldiers in an endeavour to maintain order. Gen. Botha, the ex-Premier, and Gen. Smuts, Minister of Mines, met representatives of the unions and arranged terms of settlement of the strike; but many of the miners have refused to return to work.

The government reports that 1,000 special police proved unable to check the riots and Viscount Gladstone, Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, sent 3,650 soldiers to Johannesburg at the request of the officials there.

What this labour disturbance means to the gold mining industry may be understood when it is known that the average number of rock drills in use at the Transvaal mines is over 6,000, the number having been doubled since 1908.

The Rand has long been the world's chief source of gold. The output has increased greatly in the last five years and in 1913 was £37,182,795, or about 40 per cent. of the world's output.

The South African Mining Journal in a recent issue computed the payable, fully exposed and fully valued tonnage of ore in reserve on December 31, 1912, in the chief producing mines at 87,387,462 tons. Adding ore partially developed or partially valued and tonnages in some smaller mines, a total reserve of 110,000,000 tons is arrived at. The estimated recoverable gold in this ore is estimated at \$750,000,000. There is also standing developed in the mines a vast tonnage of low grade ore which may some time be profitably worked.

The enormous amount of work to be done in order to recover the values contained in the ore developed makes it specially unfortunate that labour disputes should intervene, and it is to be hoped that an early settlement of the strike will be made.

According to Canadian Press Despatches bearing date of July 7, a dispute is on over the actual terms of settlement which Gen. Botha and Gen. Smuts made with the unions. The unionists assert they insisted that the government provide for the miners whose places were taken by strike-breakers until new places should be found for them; that Generals Botha and Smuts agreed to this, but thought it inadvisable to put it into writing, and also that the leaders claimed amnesty for the rioters. Gen. Botha replying that that was a matter for the Department of Justice, but giving the impression that he favored amnesty.