

Infantry Regiment to the scene of the trouble near Kupferhammerhuetten. Four machine guns have been placed in readiness for emergencies.

**Berlin.**—With reference to the approaching international conference in Paris to elaborate a mining law for Morocco, the German Mannesmann group has taken the opinion of thirteen authorities on international law in various countries, including Professor Westlake. These are unanimously agreed that the Mannesmann concessions do not come within the scope of the conference, which they consider can only deal with future eventualities. These concessions cover an area amounting to one-tenth of the whole of Morocco and are situated in the Melilla region, beginning 30 kilometres (18½ miles) from the coast. The Sultan, Mulai Hafid, is interested in them, and has already obtained advances from Mannesmanns on the security of his interest.

#### TURKEY.

...Constantinople.—Since the re-establishment of the Constitution, in July 1908, no fewer than thirty mining concessions have been granted to private persons, who, with two exceptions (British subjects at Smyrna) are all Ottomans. According to the terms of concession, two years are allowed in which the exploitation of the mine is to commence, failing which the concession is forfeited. The Government derives a benefit varying from 5 per cent. to 20 per cent. (according to the nature of the mineral) on the gross receipts, besides a tax of ten piastres per hectare of the extent of the mine. Work has not yet commenced on any of the new concessions, and a serious drawback to their proper working is the absence of roads. The mines for which concessions have been granted are situated in the vilayets of Aidin, Salonika, Brusa, Dardanelles, Trebizond, Uskub, Adana sandjat of Ismid, districts of Guebze and Kartal, near Constantinople, and comprise the following minerals—arsenic, manganese, argentiferous lead, antimony, copper, chrome, zinc, emery, lignite and iron.

#### RUSSIA.

Among the questions now engaging the attention of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce is the importation into Russia of machinery and instruments for the gold and platinum mining industries. By a decision taken in 1898 such articles were admitted duty free for a period of ten years. In 1908 the Ministry of Commerce declined to renew the privilege, and the gold and platinum industries have now addressed themselves to the Chamber of Commerce in the hope that the exemption of mining machinery from duty may be restored.

#### AUSTRALIA.

During the past twelve months the export coal industry from Australia has been in a very depressed condition, and there are at present no signs of any improvement. The cause of the setback is attributable to the quiet state of trade all over the world and the lower prices at which coal has been selling in other countries, which have prevented the Australian collieries from competing in foreign markets. Tangible evidence of the unsatisfactory conditions which have prevailed recently is to be found in the dividend declared by the Scottish Australian Mining Company, which was at the rate of 7 1-2 per cent. per annum, as against 10 per cent. per annum in the first half of 1908. The distribution now declared is, of course, not altogether unsatisfactory, nevertheless, it does reflect the falling-off which has occurred in the company's business, which it is to be feared will make further progress before there is any revival.

**Perth, Western Australia.**—Press despatches dated November 10 bring the news that the surface structures of the Great Boulder gold mines have been destroyed by fire. The damage done is estimated at \$1,500,000.

**Sydney.**—Twelve thousand miners have gone on strike at the Newcastle and Maitland collieries. A general sympathetic strike is expected.

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

**Pietermaritzburg, Oct. 25.**—The Natal Mining Commission recommends the establishing of a permanent Board and the granting of increased facilities for prospecting and larger rewards for discoveries of gold.

**Johannesburg.**—The foundations for the mortar boxes of the Randfontein Central mill are completed. The ore-bins will have a 5,500 ton capacity. The excavations for the sands and slimes plant are progressing rapidly.

There has been large buying of Rhodesia, Ltd., on the strength of the reconstruction scheme undertaken by Mr. Abe Bailey.

The Umkondo Copper mine in the Victoria District of Mashonaland, the property of the Consolidated African Copper Trust, upon which active work is proceeding, is opening up well.

The Transvaal Gold Mining Estates (Lydenburg district) are opening up a new reef on Peach Tree Creek, going 26 dwts. over 21 ins. About 10,000 tons have been developed.

The October profits of the Rand mines will make a slightly lower showing, owing to the scarcity of labour and relatively higher costs. An improvement in the labour supply is perceptible.

The improvement in the ore of the central section of the Consolidated Main Reef mine, recently reported, is maintained, and the position and prospects of the company are being steadily enhanced.

De Beers are recommencing work on the Bultfontein and Du-toitspan mines. The public of Kimberley is elated at the immediate prospect of renewed activity and revival in local conditions.

#### SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

A report issued by the German Colonial Economic Committee states that about 80 diamond winning companies have been formed in German South-West Africa, and the shares of about 25 of these undertakings are dealt in on the Bourse at Luderitz Bay. The strong resistance offered to the Regie Company at the beginning has been removed; the questions in dispute seem for the most part to have found a happy solution, although some difficult problems still await a settlement. The Diamond Leasing Company of Berlin has been formed to work the State diamond fields, and the German Diamond Company to work the "close district" of the Colonial Company for South-West Africa. About 50 per cent. of the value of the diamonds found has to be paid as taxes and the cost of production ranges from 2s to 10s per carat, according to local conditions. Since the beginning of activity of the Regie Company at the commencement of March down to the starting of October, 273,701 carats have been delivered, which have yielded \$399,060, of which the sum of \$193,500 has reverted to the State. The prices have gradually risen higher and higher and amounted in the case of the first nine deliveries on the average to 22s 5d per carat, 27s 3d, 27s 6d, 26s 11d, 28s 6d, 28s 1d, 28s 5d, 30s and 33s 8d respectively. At present the monthly output is about 45,000 carats, and it is expected that the monthly average for the current year will attain 45,000 carats.