

light weight. Drilling in stopes has so far to a great extent been carried out by the manual labour of the natives, but if a suitable drill can be manufactured this work can be done by mechanical force and a large number of natives set free for other work. The trials now proceeding by the Chamber of Mines in conjunction with the Government are not yet concluded, but it can already be stated that the prospects of obtaining a practical and useful stope drill are favourable.

**UNITED STATES**

An appeal is to be taken in the action of Bliss vs the Washoe Company (the smoke case.) An injunction to close the Anaconda smelter was refused the farmers of Deer Lodge valley. The appeal is against this refusal.

The Butte mining companies are experimenting with electric power as a substitute for steam in transportation. The change is expected to reduce costs by one-third of a cent per pound of copper.

**MEXICO**

The announcement from the oil fields of Mexico of the large new company for developing the oilfields has attracted considerable interest. It concerns the future position and work of Messrs. Pearson and Son (Oilfields Department), and, if correct, exceeds in importance all news which has recently come to hand from this great centre or petroleum excitement and activity. The concessions cover the holdings of the Pearson Oilfield Department north and west of an imaginary line drawn at about 19 degrees long west from Washington, and extending from Vera Cruz (in an almost direct line south) to Puerto Angel, on the Pacific Ocean, in the Senate of Oaxaca. They include the Dos Bocas field, the scene of the famous burning oil fountain, and certain rights Messrs. Pearson & Son have acquired by contract from the Oilfields of Mexico Company. The Compania Mexicana de Petroleo El Aguila, Mexican in charter, operations

and character, will confine their interests to developing, exploiting and marketing home products in Mexico; they will not only produce and market the product of the fields north and west of the imaginary line drawn from Vera Cruz to Puerto Angel, but they will also market in Mexico the products of the fields south and east of the line and in the States of Vera Cruz and of Oaxaca, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and the States of Tabasco, Chiapas, Campeche and Yucatan.

The old company of Messrs. Pearson & Son (Oil Fields Department) will produce, refine and export only, and will go out of the Mexican market, both wholesale and retail. Messrs. Pearson & Son are interested in the Compania Mexicana de Petroleo El Aguila as shareholders. For the present, however, the most productive fields owned by Messrs. Pearsons, lying south of the imaginary line, continue in the possession of that firm, leaving them with the refinery at Minatitlan and a large number of producing wells on the isthmus. Later accounts state that, while the capital of the new company is £5,000,000, not £3,000,000 as at first announced, it is a fact that all the shareholders are multi-millionaires and control unlimited finance. One of the directors is Colonel Diaz, Jr., son of President Diaz. The company's lands are 3,000,000 acres in extent, and great refinery and pipe line extension schemes and new property acquisitions are being talked about.

Considerable conjecture is being indulged in with respect to the latest Mexican oil company and the concession recently granted to the Oil Fields of Mexico Company, and, although it is denied that any deal is pending between the two, business men anticipate that before long the Furber holdings will be acquired by the Compania Mexicana de Petroleo El Aguila. Nothing that is happening in petroleum centres on the other side of the Atlantic approaches in importance the conduct of Messrs. Pearsons in the oil fields of Mexico. Their investments are known to be considerable, certainly between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000, and they are still at war with Standard Oil interests.

**STATISTICS AND RETURNS.**

**COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS—WEEK ENDING JULY 3.**

Nipissing Mine, Am. Smltg. & R. Co., Denver....	65,874
Nipissing Mine, Am. Smltg. & R. Co., Denver....	65,599
Nipissing Mine, Can. Copper Co., Copper Cliff....	65,529
	—197,002
La Rose Mine, Can. Copper Co., Copper Cliff....	73,600
La Rose Mine, Am. Smltg. & R. Co., Denver.....	65,000
	—138,600
Crown Reserve, Am. Smltg. & R. Co., Denver....	58,600
Crown Reserve, Can. Copper Co., Copper Cliff....	60,265
	118,865
Coniagas Mine, Coniagas R. Co., Thorold.....	82,000
McKinley-Darragh, Am. Smltg. & R. Co., Perth Amboy..	57,700
Kerr Lake, Kerr Lake Mining Co., Copper Cliff.....	62,085
Peterson Lake, Am. Smltg. & R. Co., Perth Amboy....	40,570
Buffalo Mine, Can. Copper Co., Copper Cliff.....	44,621
O'Brien Mine, Deloro M. & R. Co., Deloro.....	63,998
T. & H. B., Deloro M. & R. Co., Deloro.....	62,000
Cobalt Lake, Am. Smltg. & R. Co., Denver.....	79,960
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Total.....	947,401

**COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS—WEEK ENDING JULY 17.**

There was a falling off last week both in the number of mines that shipped ore and in the weight of the output. Compared with eleven shippers of the past three weeks there were only eight, and the tonnage amounted to 443.21, or 30.49 tons less than a week ago. The total number of pounds shipped during the week was 886,420. Nipissing again headed the list with 259,110 pounds, and Crown Reserve and La Rose came next with

shipments close up to the two hundred thousand mark. All the others failed to ship over 65,000 pounds.

	Week ending July 17. Ore in lbs.	From Jan. 1, 1909. Ore in lbs.
Buffalo.....		
Cobalt Lake.....		658,178
Crown Reserve.....		79,960
Coniagas.....	188,320	3,167,837
Cobalt Central.....		924,630
Chambers-Ferland.....	38,700	539,766
City of Cobalt.....	60,000	779,440
Diamond.....		865,522
Kerr Lake.....		920,000
King Edward.....		1,173,216
La Rose.....		97,050
McKinley.....	151,000	6,710,053
Nipissing.....	64,420	1,057,806
Nancy Helen.....	259,110	7,493,083
O'Brien.....		83,400
Peterson Lake.....	63,870	1,354,616
Right of Way.....		241,110
Silver Queen.....		1,854,640
Temiskaming.....		255,275
Trethewey.....	61,000	1,405,960
T. & H. B.....		1,162,838
Muggley Consolidated.....		970,080
		72,900
Total for week.....	886,420	