

was unanimously adopted demanding Imperial legislation for the supervision of collieries by independent inspectors, representatives of the mines having no connection with colliery owners.

RUSSIA.

On the western portion of the Amur Railway, now under construction, gold has been discovered in such quantities that the laborers are quitting their work to search for gold and have been largely successful. The Government proposes to station troops along the line to protect the gold deposits.

Extensive deposits of wolframite and precious stones have been found on the Shirloff Hill, near Borsya Station, in the neighborhood of Manchuria.

AUSTRIA.

A deposit of coal has been discovered near Grain-an-der-Donau, Lower Austria.

The Nordbahn Railway has erected 144 Hoffmann coke ovens in four batteries at Vienna.

ITALY.

The British Consul at Palermo reports that the Sicilian sulphur trade has not been affected in any way by the recent earthquake.

AUSTRALASIA.

The Broken Hill labor dispute is being adjudicated by the Federal Arbitration Court at Melbourne. Two men have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment each for assaulting officials of the Broken Hill Proprietary mine.

The finding of a gold nugget of 81½ oz. at Talga Talga, Western Australia at a depth of 9 feet is reported.

The mineral production of New South Wales for 1908 is valued at £8,609,607. The gold output was 224,792 oz. valued at £954,854. The yield of coal was a record one, being 9,147,025 tons valued at £3,353,093, the production having doubled during the last ten years.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A large company is being found in London for the purpose of establishing electrical works in the Rand on an extensive scale. The capital will be in the neighborhood of £2,000,000. The company intends to supply power to the mines.

Several syndicates found for the purpose of working the mica deposits in the Zoutpansberg district have proved failures owing to the heavy expenses curtailed by lack of railway facilities, and the insufficient working capital available. Another enterprise of this character has been undertaken to work claims covering 334 acres on the Oliphant River.

The gold output of the Transvaal for 1908 was 7,052,617 oz. valued at £29,957,610, which constitutes a new record. The production of 1907 was 6,451,384 oz. of the value of £27,403,738.

UNITED STATES.

Heavy snow and rain storms on the Pacific Coast have caused considerable interruption to mining and smelting operations. Many plants were obliged to close down.

The Phelps-Dodge copper smelting companies have filed complaints with the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington against the Baltimore & Ohio and other railroads, alleging discrimination in transportation rates for coke shipped to smelters in Texas and Arizona.

The new 87-ft. blast furnace of the Washoe smelter in Deer Lodge Co., Montana, claimed to be the largest in operation in the world, was recently blown in. The two other blast furnaces are 51 ft. in length. The smelter is producing from 300 to 400 tons of copper daily.

The new electrolytic plant of the Elkhorn Electro-Metals Co., Jefferson County, Montana, was put in operation early in February.

The United States Steel Corporation has decided to introduce the Heroult electric furnace and steel process. One 15-ton Heroult furnace will be built at the South Chicago works of the Illinois Steel Co. and one of the same capacity at the Washburn & Moon plant at Worcester, Mass., in connection with the American Steel & Wire Co.

MEXICO.

A revival of the zinc industry of Chihuahua is noted as a result of an American decision placing carbonate in the calamine class as duty free for importation into the United States. Several large American firms have closed contracts with zinc producers and a number of mines are under option.

The old Promontorio silver mine in the Cusihiuriachie camp, Chihuahua, has been acquired by the Potter-Palmer estate, of Chicago, for \$125,000.

COMPANY NOTES.

NOVA SCOTIA STEEL CO.

Nova Scotia Steel Co. will not resume dividends at present on the common stock. The profits of the company for the year 1908 were \$734,701.53, as compared with \$944,790.66 for the year 1907. The amount at the credit of profit and loss account on January 1st, 1907, was \$1,202,604.39, which, with profits for the year 1909, make a total of \$1,937,305.92 to credit of profit and loss account on December 31, 1908. Out of this sum \$76,745.50 has been transferred to the credit of special reserve funds, of which \$50,000 is the usual allowance for depreciations, and \$13,745.50 is for blast furnace renewals (being 25 cents a ton on the output of pig iron during the year), and \$13,000 is for depreciation in the value of ships. The balance to the credit of the special reserve accounts is now \$857,225.93.

The balance carried forward to the credit of profit and loss is \$1,219,221.07, as compared with \$1,202,604.39 on the 1st of

January, 1908. The sum of \$321,735.08 has been expended during the year on capital account.

DIVIDEND PASSED.

The directors of the Silver Queen Company, at the annual meeting recently, under the advice of President Culver, decided to pass the dividend for the current quarter.

The company has hitherto paid 12 per cent. in 3 per cent. quarterly dividends, and on two occasions bonuses were added.

F. L. Culver, the president of the company, discussing the action of the directors, said: "It was entirely on my advice that the directors decided not to pay the usual dividend. We have plenty of money on hand, but we have run into a lean streak, such as most mines experience in their development. In the interest of the shareholders I thought it wise to hold the money we have in order to keep up the development until we got into good paying ore again."