

MINING NEWS OF THE WORLD.

GREAT BRITAIN.

An official table issued by the Home Office gives the number of fatal accidents in and about coal mines during 1908 as 1,136, as compared with 1,162 in the preceding year. The total number of deaths resulting was 1,306, as compared with 1,245 in 1907. The total number of deaths caused by accident in metalliferous mines was 37, an increase of 3, and fatalities in quarries numbered 92, as against 89 in 1907.

The wages of Northumberland coal miners have been reduced 3¼ per cent.

Owing to the scarcity of radium, a syndicate has been formed in London for working the pitch blende deposits in the Trenwith copper mine, Cornwall, with the hope of producing radium in commercial quantities. Previous to the discovery of radium the pitch blende was thrown away after the copper and uranium had been extracted.

RUSSIA.

An extensive export trade in steel rails is being developed. The Societe Dnieproviennne Metallurgique du Midi de la Russie alone shipped 37,866 tons during the eight months ending with October last. Of these 14,016 tons were exported to Italy and 6,285 tons to Japan.

An Anglo-Japanese syndicate has been formed for the purpose of exploiting on a large scale the gold, silver and copper deposits of Manchuria on the right bank of the Yalu.

Rich silver-lead ores have been discovered in Murman in the far north of Russia near the Norwegian frontier. It is intended to develop the deposits, using electricity generated from water power for smelting the metals.

GERMANY.

A new battery of 60 coke ovens is about to be established at the works of the Deutscher Kaiser Gewerkschaft at Hamborn.

SWEDEN.

The total production of iron ore in Sweden in 1907 was 4,478,917 tons from 294 mines, a decrease of 23,000 tons as compared with 1906. The output of pig iron was 615,778 tons, an increase of 10,989 tons. The number of workmen employed at the iron mines and smelting plants was 9,970, a decrease of 525 as compared with 1906.

AUSTRALASIA.

Tests of the Dawson coal of Queensland have proved very satisfactory, showing that it can be economically used in place of coke as fuel in suitable suction producer gas plants.

Upwards of 15,000 acres in the northern territory of Australia have been secured by different companies and syndicates for gold dredging. A dredging plant is to be sent to the territory in March and is to be operated on Sandy Creek. A lucrative alluvial gold industry was formerly carried on in some of these fields.

The labor dispute at Broken Hill, N.S.W., involving several thousand miners has been characterized by rioting and conflicts with the police. A number of unionists were arrested. The water main leading from the concentrating plant to the mill at one of the mines has been blown up.

Australian mining companies are contracting with the Cape Explosives Co. of South Africa, an offshoot of the De Beers Mining Company, for a supply of explosives by Australian manufacturers.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Extensive floods which prevailed in January throughout the Transvaal and Northern Natal, caused considerable loss of life in the mining districts. The flooding of the Witwatersrand gold mine owing to the bursting of a dam resulted in the drowning of 160 mine employees, ten of whom were white men and the others natives.

Experienced prospectors who have returned from the new diamond diggings at Rietfontein in the Vryburg district report that the fields are not payable owing to the shallowness of the diamondiferous soil.

The attempt made by a Durban syndicate to work the deposits of molybdenum in the mountainous districts of Natal has been abandoned.

INDIA.

It is announced that the Tata Iron & Steel Co., Bombay, will in the spring proceed with the erection of a new plant at a cost of £1,500,000, including blast furnaces, open hearth steel furnaces and rolling mills.

CHINA.

The deposits of gold near the city of Laichowfu have been opened under the direction of the Chinese Government, and the enterprise has turned out successful though only antiquated methods of mining are employed.

Deposits of coal have been located by an American engineer in Shensi Province, and a Chinese-American syndicate has applied for a concession.

UNITED STATES.

The suit brought by the farmers of Deer Lodge County, Montana, against the Anaconda Copper Mining & Smelting Co. to recover \$2,000,000 damages and secure an injunction to prevent the operation of the smelter on the ground that the fumes were injurious to vegetation, has been dismissed by the court. The hearing of the case lasted for one year and two months, and the judge took nearly two years to deliberate before giving his decision.

The convention of the United Mine Workers of America held at Indianapolis adjourned on February 6th after a three weeks' session. They demanded an 8-hour day for the miners in the Pennsylvania anthracite districts, increased pay, and full recognition of the union.

Seventeen miners were killed by an explosion in the No. 2 Short Creek mines of the Birmingham Coal & Iron Co., of Alabama, on February 2nd.

The Frick Coke Company has abandoned work on 1,700 additional coke ovens at Uniontown, Pa., and will substitute for them an enormous by-product coke plant at Gary, Ind.

Congress has been asked for an appropriation of \$2,500,000 for a fireproof building for the Geological Survey and other bureaus of the Department of the Interior.

MEXICO.

Prospecting is being conducted with good results west of Laguna, a station on the Mexican Central Railway, in the northern part of Chihuahua. The ores are mainly gold and silver-bearing copper and lead sulphides.

A party of engineers under the direction of Pearson's Oil Field Department have left San Cristobal, Vera Cruz, on an expedition through the States of Chiapas and Tabasco for the purpose of making a geological and geographical survey of a region very little known.