

The world's production for a number of years compares as follows:—

1907	716,435
1906	714,100
1905	682,125
1904	644,000
1903	574,775
1902	541,295
1901	516,628
1900	489,514
1899	472,244
1898	429,626
1897	399,730
1896	273,363
1895	334,565
1894	324,505
1893	303,530
1892	310,472
1891	279,391
1890	269,455

Market Reports.

COKE.

April 21st—Connellsville Coke, f.o.b. ovens—

Furnace coke, prompt, \$1.60 to \$1.70.
 Foundry coke, prompt, \$2.15 to \$2.25.

PIG IRON.

April 21st—Pittsburg—

No 2 foundry, \$16.15 to \$16.55.
 Bessemer, \$17.50 to \$17.90.
 Basic, \$16.30 to \$16.40.
 Malleable, \$16.90 to \$17.15.
 Southern, No. 2, \$16.90 to \$17.40.

OTHER METALS.

Tin, Straits, 31.90 cents.
 Copper, prime lake, 12.90 to 13 cents.
 Lake, arsenical brands, 12.85 to 12.95 cents.
 Electrolytic copper, 12.875 cents.
 Sheet copper, 17 cents.
 Copper wire, 14.75 cents.
 Lead, 4 to 4.05 cents.
 Spelter, 4.675 cents.
 Sheet zinc, 7.5 cents.
 Antimony, Cookson's, 8.87 to 9 cents.
 Aluminum, 33 to 35 cents.
 Nickel, 45 to 47 cents.
 Platinum, \$23.50 to \$26 per ounce.
 Bismuth, \$1.75 per pound.
 Quicksilver, \$45 per 75 pound flask.

SILVER PRICES.

	New York. Cents.	London. Pence.
April 2	55 1-8	25 1-2
April 3	55 1-8	25 7-16
April 4	55 1-8	25 7-16
April 6	55 1-8	25 7-16
April 7	55	25 2-8
April 8	54 7-8	25 5-16
April 9	54 3-4	25 1-4
April 10	54 1-2	25 3-16
April 11	54 1-2	25 3-16
April 13	54 5-8	25 3-16
April 14	54 3-4	25 1-4
April 15	55	25 3-8

There is little prospect of reduction in Lake Superior ore prices. Hence a number of blast furnaces may be blown out presently.

The copper market is still dull. The belief is current that heavy purchases will soon bring up the price.

SAFETY MEASURES.

In addition to what were previously considered as safety precautions, the Fairmont Coal Company is attacking the three known enemies, powder, gas and dust, in every manner possible, some of which may be of interest here.

Powder.—Ordinary black powder was formerly used in all mines of the Fairmont Coal Company, and it was considered practically safe so long as it was not accumulated in large quantities and not used where gas was generated. Its advantages were that it could be readily secured in any amount at economical cost and that it produced coal of better quality than any other known explosive. These advantages have been sacrificed and black powder is being removed, as a safety measure, as rapidly as flameless powder can be procured in sufficient and regular quantities. The largest mines have already been put on a flameless powder basis with regular shot firers, and the practice is rapidly being extended to the other mines, until black powder will be entirely eliminated. The advantage of the flameless type of powder is that it will not ignite gas or dust, even with a wild or blown-out shot. This feature is, of course, assumed from the numerous demonstrations and past practice. While flameless powder cannot be called safety powder, it certainly does eliminate to a great extent the dangers that accompany the use of black powder.

Firedamp.—Gas has ever been the greatest enemy of the mines. Its properties in the simple state are thoroughly known and the danger of its presence appreciated. The common methods of its detection depend considerably on personal opinion and fail entirely on low percentages. Mine air in which no gas can be detected by the ordinary safety lamp, is considered safe for all practical purposes. This would certainly be the case if only gas was to be contended with, but complicated with the two other dangers, powder and dust, this decision loses its positiveness and becomes a matter of degrees. Literature does not enlighten us on how much firedamp is allowable in the return air course or the return of a split. Whatever the general opinion may be it certainly should be less than could be detected by a safety lamp of the Wolf pattern.

While none of the mines of the Fairmont Coal Company are considered gasey, in the opinion of the State Mine Inspector, yet for additional security it was decided to put on a gas inspector to report on such of the mines as have shown an accumulation of firedamp. This inspector is provided with, in addition to the Wolf safety lamp, an aneroid barometer, anemometer, water gauge, wet and dry bulb thermometer and sample can for taking mine air samples. The anemometer measurements are for the purpose of checking up the mine foreman's reports on ventilation and also to estimate the quantity of water carried by the air in connection with the humidity as determined by the hygrometer.

The mine air samples are taken to the laboratory, where the CO₂ and CH₄ are determined. The method used can be relied upon to one-hundredth of 1 per cent. It has been found that one inspector can cover five mines a week, do all the analytical work and make his report.