

were hurried to the scene. Especially constructed devices to guard against the fatal gases in the mine were brought there.

A temporary hospital and morgue were established. As the blackened and wounded men were brought to the surface they were taken with all possible despatch to the hospital. The dead were hastily embalmed and placed in the morgue for identification.

There were 337 men in the colliery at the time the explosion occurred and eight hours later only fifteen survivors had been taken out. At that time ten of the dead had also been removed.

Fire broke out in the mine following the explosion and prevented rescue work. Vast volumes of smoke mingled with the fatal fire damp. Great billows of fire spurted from the pit thousands of feet in the air and pockets of gas exploded from time to time with tremendous detonations.

Within a few minutes after the first blast occurred, the mouth of the mine was surrounded with relatives and friends of the miners. When these learned that the mine officials were considering sealing the mouth of the pit rioting broke out. The mine officials were attacked by the infuriated mobs and a detachment of soldiers was summoned to protect the representatives of the owners and prevent the men in the crowds from rushing to their doom in the shaft in the hope of attempting a rescue of their imprisoned comrades.

The local authorities were powerless to restore order. The municipal authorities deputized armed guards to patrol the mine company's property.

Members of the early rescue party, which was able to penetrate a short distance into the shaft before the fire passed beyond control, declared that more than 250 miners were undoubtedly dead, as they were working in a section of the mine completely cut off by falls of slate and a seething furnace of rescuers declared that the poisonous fumes and lack of fresh flames. Even if they escaped death in the raging holocaust, the air would kill them.

The mine owners declared that the explosion had been caused by an ignition of accumulated fire damp from an open lamp worn on a miner's cap.

The plight of the miners was rendered more desperate by a mishap to the machinery of the shafts where the cages refused to move for a time, preventing a quick escape and interfering with the ventilation. The rising gases were checked by obstructions and driven back upon the entombed men.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Johannesburg.—The Johannesburg Star reports the discovery of a gold formation—said to be similar to the Glynn's Lydenburg deposit—traced for a distance of 4,000 yards and situated 11 miles southwest of Pretoria.

Three of the finance houses are interested and prospecting is proceeding.

A prominent group of engineers who inspected during the week-end the Cyferfontein discovery on the Klerksdorp gold-field, express themselves impressed by the showing.

INDIA.

The gold production of the mines of the Kolar Goldfield (Mysore) and two outside mines (the Hutti Nizam's and the North Anantapur) for November was 47,272 ozs., an increase of 43 ozs. compared with the return of the previous month.

UNITED STATES.

Bakersfield, Cal.—At the recent meeting of the directors of the Independent Producers' Agency, in this city, several plans for the improvement of the oil markets were considered and it is probable that in the near future action will be taken to carry out the plans that met with general favour. One of the projects is for the Agency to rent all the storage it may need for a period of 10 years on a certain fixed amount, and not for month

to month as prevails at this time. It is likely that steps will soon be taken towards this end.

San Francisco, Cal., December 20.—More than \$78,000, \$18,232 in gold bullion, and \$60,000 in express bullion, has been stolen by Alaska treasure thieves, and the Canadian Government and the United States Post Office Department are working to-day to solve the crime, which was committed under mysterious circumstances.

The robbery of the \$78,000 worth of bullion took place while the treasure was enroute from Fairbanks, Alaska, to this city. The authorities have been working upon the supposition that \$60,000 was stolen from a United States mail bag on board the steamer Humboldt between Skagway and this city. Inspector Durand to-day declared, however, that he had discovered evidence that the treasure was stolen between Dawson and White Horse Rapids in Canadian territory.

Four persons giving the names of E. L. Smith, Margaret Henry and T. J. and G. M. Woodson, are under arrest in San Francisco. The quartette had \$12,500 worth of gold bullion and currency in their possession when arrested. The authorities have not revealed the part they claim the woman played in the robbery.

Redding, Cal.—The Farmers' Protective Association has unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that the Balaklala Copper Company cease from operating its smelter at Coram, except in strict conformity to the decree of Judge Morrow, of the United States Circuit Court at San Francisco. The farmers charge that the fumes are still causing great damage to crops and that the smelter must close until such time as the Cottrell or other devices effectively control the objectionable smoke.

Colorado Springs, Colo., December 17.—Dividends aggregating more than \$550,000 have already been declared or will be declared this month by mining companies operating at Cripple Creek, with headquarters in this city. Among the companies that have already announced these so-called "Christmas" dividends are: El Paso, \$24,000; Golden Cycle, \$30,000; Elkton, \$37,500; Gold King, \$19,737; Vindicator, \$45,000; Acacia, \$7,194; Granite, \$16,500; Portland, \$60,000.

Leadville, Colo.—When the year 1910 shall have been completed and figures are made up on zinc production in Lake County for the year, it is expected that the figures representing the output of carbonate of zinc will represent a surprisingly large percentage of the total. Close to 4,000 tons a month of carbonate of zinc are being produced, and the returns thus far indicate an average value of about \$20 a ton net to the shipper.

MEXICO.

Durango, Mex.—Forty-seven miles northeast of Telehuanes, the Inde Gold Mining Company at the camp of Inde, is treating an average of 3,000 tons of ore a month, employing an all slime cyanide process and grinding with high-speed rolls and tube mills. The reduction equipment will be enlarged by the addition of a half-dozen Pachuca tanks to care for the ore from the company's recently acquired Potrillo mine.

SILVER PRICES.

		New York.	London.
		cents.	pence.
	13.....	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	25 $\frac{1}{8}$
December	7.....	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	25
	8.....	54 $\frac{1}{8}$	25
	9.....	54 $\frac{5}{8}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$
	10.....	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{3}{8}$
	12.....	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	25 $\frac{1}{8}$
	14.....	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{3}{8}$
	15.....	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$
	16.....	54 $\frac{5}{8}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$
	17.....	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$
	19.....	54 $\frac{3}{4}$	25 $\frac{3}{8}$
	20.....	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{3}{8}$
	21.....	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	25 $\frac{1}{8}$