MINERAL OUTPUT IN 1896.

TOTAL VALUE AMOUNTED TO $653,311,468.

A DECREASE OF 3 PER CENT

Total Production of Metals $242,311,481—Great Increase in Gold and Copper—Little Decrease in Silver—Pig Iron Spelter, Lead, Coal, Coke, Etc., Production for the Year.

NEW YORK Jan. 4.—The Engineering and Mining Journal says the production of mineral and metals in the United States for the year 1896 amounted to $653,311,468, showing a decrease, as compared with 1895 of $24,689,266, or about 3 per cent. This decrease was largely in values rather than in quantities; in none of the chief articles was there any marked decrease, while in several there were considerable increases.

The total productions of metals was $242,311,481, an increase of $1,694,111 over the previous year, while the value of non-metallic substances was $410,999,987, a decrease of $26,383,377 from 1895. A large part of this was due to the lower values of coal, stone and a few other important substances, very little resulting from the smaller quantities.

The production of alluminum shows an increase of 400,000 pounds over that of 1895, the total for the year being 1,300,000 pounds. The production continues in the hands of a single company.

The increase in copper has been extraordinary, the total gain amounting to 67,763,150 pounds, which was made in spite of a large decrease in the domestic demands, but was absorbed by the extraordinary exports of the year, which are the largest on record.

The gold production in the United States in 1896 reached the total of $57,000,000. The increase far surpasses the gain reported from any other country in the world and puts the United States in the lead. This country's output of gold was 26 per cent of the reported output of the entire world.

The production of pig iron was 8,769,809 long tons. The depression of business which made itself manifest in the latter part of the year had less effect than had been anticipated, the decrease from 1895 being only 677,439 tons, or about 7 per cent. The production of lead from domestic ores amounted to 175,717 short tons, showing an increase of 20,863 tons over the preceding year. In addition to this there was 79,000 tons produced from imported ores or refined from imported bullion. The quick-silver output was 33,012 flasks of seventy-six half-pounds each, showing a decrease of 966 flasks from the previous year. The production continues to come wholly from the California mines, no new deposits having been developed to the producing point during the year.

The production of silver from domestic ores reached a total of 45,465,175 fine ounces, showing a decrease from that of 1895 amounting to 865,062 ounces only. The silver production has thus been maintained better than had been anticipated. Moreover, there were produced from foreign bullion by our smelters and other works no less than 40,000,000 fine ounces of silver, making the total quantity refined or put into final marketable form in this country 85,465,173 fine ounces. This large production was almost entirely absorbed by the markets and the average price of silver of the year shows an actual advance which, having been 67 per cent, towards the close of the year fell about two cents below that point. Of the silver obtained from foreign receipts it is estimated that 38,000,000 ounces came from Mexican ores and bullion and 2,000,000 ounces from materials brought into this country from Canada, chiefly from British Columbia.

The total production of spelter for commerce for the year 1896, amounting to 77,084 short tons, showed a decrease of 4,074 tons from that of 1895. The production was fully up to the demand, however. Of the spelter 31,431 tons came from Illinois and Indiana districts, 36,331 tons from the Kansas-Missouri region and 9,322 tons from eastern and southern productions. The latter as well as the Illinois showed a decrease, a slight gain being reported from the Kansas-Missouri region.

As was inevitable in a year of business depression the increase in coal was not large, in fact it is surprising that bituminous coal should have shown anything at all. The output in 1896 was 141,770,099 tons, showing a gain of 4,371,752 tons over 1895. On the other hand there was a decrease of 6,782,057 short tons in anthracite production, this amount being greater than the gain in bituminous. The total coal production was therefore 193,351,027 short tons and the total decrease as compared with 1895 was 2,410,305 tons. With ordinary prosperity and activity in manufacturing we would doubtless have passed 200,000,000 tons before this, and it is to be hoped that point will be reached in 1897. The production of coke showed a gain of 44,426 tons; chiefly due to the activity of the iron and steel trades in the earlier part of the year. The price of coal continues very low, the average for bituminous coal at mines being below $1 per ton.

An Actress and a Count Betrothed.

JERSEY CITY, N J., Jan. 4.—The engagement is announced of Carrie Ewald [illegible] lately a member of Frohman's [illegible] to Count Julian Charles Rada of Buda Pesth, the ceremony to take place February 6, but the bride will not become the Countess Rada before the death of the count's father.

A Groom of 89 and Bride of 97.

DEERFIELD, N. H., Jan. 4.—Jacob Witham, aged 89, and his housekeeper, [illegible]rs. Brown, aged 97, were married [illegible]re. Both are remarkably vigorous [illegible]r their years

RAILROADING IN 1896.

A Year of Many Disappointments and Great Loss of Capital.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—The year just closed has been one of disappointment and losses in all lines of business, says the Railway Age, and as the railroads cannot prosper when other interests suffer they have painfully reflected the general depression. The promise of increased earnings given early in the year was not sustained, and as a consequence many companies which, if good times had begun, would have been able to meet their obligations, were obliged to default and turn over possession of their property to the courts. Instead, therefore, of the expected decrease in the number of insolvencies compared with the previous year, we find an increase in both the number and mileage of roads placed in the hands of receivers, although the capitalization involved is considerably less. Compared indeed with either 1894, 1893 or 1892, the record of 1896 is favorable, although at the best it is still bad enough, for it shows that during last year thirty-four roads, with 5,841 miles of lines and a bond and stock capitalization of about $195,600,000, joined the list of railways operated by receivers.

The five years of financial trouble commencing with 1892 have left a record of bankruptcies far greater than that of the preceding ten years and more. In that period 213 roads have been turned over to receivers, with lines aggregating 56,403 miles, or 36 per cent of the entire present mileage of the United States, and a capitalization representing over $179,000,000, or about 30 per cent of the bonds and stock of our entire railway system today. These are apalling figures. Certainly no other form of business investment has suffered such loss as the railways within the past few years. In 1896 no less than fifty-eight roads were sold for their creditors, representing 13,730 miles of lines, and the enormous capitalization of $1,150,000,000.

The most important failure of the year was that of the Baltimore and Ohio, with 2,094 miles of road and over $124,000,000 of bonds and stock, besides heavy floating debt and arrears of interest. The bankruptcy of this old and formerly profitable company was discouraging evidence of the effects of unlimited competition. The other notable failures include the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago, 501 miles and $28,750,000 of liabilities; the six roads forming the Vandalia system, aggregating nearly 600 miles and $24,000,000 of bonds and stock; the Pittsburg & Western, involved in the embarrassment of the Baltimore & Ohio, 325 miles and $18,500,000, and two related Eastern roads, the Central Vermont and Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain, covering 778 miles of road and nearly $17,000,000 of investment.

The summary of receiverships for last thirteen years shows that 412 roads with 90,876 miles of track and nearly $5,000,000,000 of capital have gone to the wall.

AN OATMEAL TRUST NEXT.

The Mills of the Country Arranging a Combine—High Prices Coming.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—The Tribune today prints the following: "Nearly every oatmeal and cereal mill in the United States has just entered into an agreement that amounts to a trust to regulate the output and prices of oatmeal, rolled oats and other breakfast cereals. The new trust is called the Cereal Millers' association. Ten days ago the representatives of the mills in the trust held a meeting in this city and another meeting probably will be held January 12, when it is likely, if the trade outlook has improved by that time, there will be a big advance in prices. The general manager of the association is George W. Brown of Sioux City, Iowa. Most of the mills that compose the trust are located in Iowa and Ohio.

CHECK FILIBUSTERING.

The Vesuvius and the Dolphin Added to the Fleet Off Florida.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The dynamite cruiser Vesuvius and the armed dispatch boat Dolphin have been ordered to Florida waters to reinforce the fleet of government vessels now engaged in the effort to suppress the filibustering expeditions to Cuba. There are now two warships, the Newark and the Raleigh, helping the revenue cutters in this service, and it may be that the cutter fleet also will be reinforced. This is taken to mean that the government is determined to leave no sound ground for complaint by the Spanish government.

A New Kansas County Wanted.

LINCOLN CENTER, Kan., Jan. 4.—Petitions are being circulated in Ellsworth, Russell, Osborne and the west end of Lincoln county for the creation of a new county by taking a portion of each of the counties named. The petitions call upon the representatives of these four counties and Senator Helm to unite in the legislature to accomplish this. Already Sylvan Grove, Lucas and Wilson are aspirants for the county seat of the proposed new county.

Fresh Cuts on Coffee.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Jan. 4.—Yesterday the Arbuckles met the one cent reduction in package coffee made by the Woolson Spice company, and this morning the latter cut a half cent lower. The officers declare that they will keep prices under that of the Arbuckles at any cost

An "Old Tennessee" Company Stranded.

ATCHISON, Kan., Jan. 4.—The "Old Tennessee" company, which left Kansas City recently, is stranded here, its effects having been attached for a $42 hotel bill. The actors claim that Henry and Thomas Tralle, the managers, skipped out last night, taking all of the funds. The twenty-two members of the company have no means to get out of town.

Heavy Snow at Larned, Kan.

LARNED, Kan., Jan. 4.—Snow is falling heavily here to-day and pilling up in drifts that will make travel difficult if it continues a few hours longer.

W. A. HAMMOND A SUICIDE.

WRECKED ILLINOIS NATIONAL BANK.

DROWNED IN THE LAKE.

Traced by Papers to the Lake Side in Evanston—Generally Held Responsible for the Bank's Failure—Charged With Speculating and Misuse of Funds—Omaha Bank Closed.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—W. A. Hammond, the late second vice president of the defunct National Bank of Illinois, called on Percy Palmer, his old friend and confidential adviser, at 8 o'clock last evening and talked gloomily about his future prospects. Palmer talked encouragingly to him and about 11 o'clock he went to his home in Evanston and about 11:30 retired for the night. He and his wife had been in the habit of sleeping in adjacent rooms. Early this morning Mrs. Hammond noticed that the door connecting the two apartments was open, looked into the room and found that her husband was not there. His night robe hung over the foot of the bed and his watch was on the table, but his clothes were nowhere to be found, and he had not taken his shoes and stockings.

The police were notified and soon found a well-developed trail in the form of numerous scraps of paper, which led to the lake. A federal life-saving crew at once began a search for the body, and at 12:50 o'clock the drowned body was found at the foot of Dempster street pier and taken to the Evanston police station.

CHARGES OF IRREGULARITIES.

Hammond was the vice president of the National Bank of Illinois, and was active in its management, in fact, he is said to have been the responsible head, since President Schneider was too feeble to do much work and the large loans to the Calumet Electric company, particularly, and to others, which resulted in the closing of the bank, are understood to have been made by him.

The first open charges against the business integrity of Hammond were made only about ten days ago. Then he was accused of enacting the character of a "kiter." He was accused of deceiving the directors of the bank and the depositors and deliberately violating the national bank law. His alleged irregularities were said to have begun many years ago, when, it is alleged, he began to use the money and credit of the bank in outside speculations. This was done in such a manner, it was generally reported, that not only were the directors deceived, but the bank examiners as well. Even old employes, thoroughly familiar with the inside workings, were said to have been unaware of what was going on under their eyes. When it was openly charged that he had falsified the bank accounts an investigation suggested that the irregularities must have begun at least four years ago. At that time he is said to have interested himself in the now famous Calumet Electric railway. It is now believed that the first overdrafts to this railway, amounting to $175,000, were made at that time, when the comptroller of the currency immediately called for a statement from the bank and Hammond disguised the irregularities by designating the overdrafts "foreign exchange."

This alleged irregularity only came after many years of diligent service in the institution, the wreck of which proved disastrous to many. In these years Hammond saved money, and worked early and late, and the position he came to occupy was the result of his years of frugality and merit. Some of his savings invested legitimately in mining schemes brought him a good profit, which he immediately put into the stock of the bank. After he had served as cashier and became second vice president, it is said, he began to personally interest himself in many corporations which were applicants for loans and in this way, in course of time, he drifted into unwarranted speculations. Where these turned out badly he is now accused of sending "good money after bad" and disguising his over-loans in various illegal ways.

THE FIRST SUICIDE.

The suicide of Hammond recalls the suicide of Otto Wasmansdorff, the banker, a few days ago. Wasmansdorff's death was the direct result of the failure of the National Bank of Illinois, the collapse of that institution pulling down the firm of Wasmansdorff & Heinnemann.

Omaha Bank Failure.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 4.—The total liabilities of the Omaha Savings bank, which closed to-day, are $890,000, and the assets exceed this amount by $200,000. The securities are excellent and no loss will result to depositors. The bank has been in existence for fifteen years. It has no connection with any other bank and will not cause other Omaha institutions any inconvenience.

A Cold Wave Strikes Oklahoma.

PERRY, Okla., Jan. 4.—A blinding sleet storm with the wind blowing twenty-five miles an hour struck Perry at 9 o'clock this morning and the mercury went down 40 degrees.

Abbey's Widow in London.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The Strand theater is being redecorated for the new lessee, John Sleeper Clark, who has secured Florence Gerard, widow of the late Henry F. Abbey, of New York, as his leading lady. The opening plays will be "The Prodigal Father" and "Home, Sweet Home."

Ovations for Mr. McKinley.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 4.—President-elect McKinley's trip to Cleveland this morning was a succession of ovations. At Bedford, Newburg and other stations crowds of workingmen cheered the President-elect.

TIGHT LACING DOOMED.

The Venus Waist Is Constantly Gaining Popularity.

That English authority, the Westminster Gazette, pronounces the wasp waist doomed. It says that while the news came from Paris, the accepted fountain head of all such information, as a matter of fact the fashion comes from the west end of London. It is really no very new thing in England, this desire to emulate the outline of the Venus de Milo, with her waist of generous circumference. "For years the doctors have been decrying the evils of tight lacing, and it only required the excuse offered by cycling for the ladies who set the fashion of England, and often of the world, to declare in favor of a return to nature. Gradually the Grecian waist has been gaining popularity. A Regent street ladies' tailor, who has sold, he declares a thousand cycling habits this season, stated this morning that his books undoubtedly prove that the standard is increasing. 'They are letting themselves go more and more,' he said, waxing enthusiastic on the subject, 'even those who are inclined to be stout. Would you believe that a lady came in here not long ago and was measured for a morning gown with a twenty-five inch waist? When she came to have it fitted her waist measurement was twenty-seven inches and we had to alter the gown accordingly. We are glad enough to notice the changing fashion and we encourage it all we can. It is much easier for us to give a stylish cut and a perfect fit if we follow nature, by which I mean narrow sleeves, a flat back and a large waist.' The buyer in the costume department of one of the largest and most fashionable west end establishments, who has just returned from Paris, stated to our representative that the change is not very perceptible there at present either on the street or in the shops. He agreed that the standard was steadily increasing, but doubted whether any sudden revolution in form could be expected. It was a matter in which the costumers were at the mercy of the customers, an interesting reversal of the usual arrangement."

Rats in a Street Car.

A down-town man who owns a terrier of which he is very proud spread consternation among the passengers of a Tenth street car on Friday. The dog had been given to him with a written guarantee that it could kill rats as easy as falling off a log. The new owner wanted to prove the dog's ability in that line, so he went to a friend who keeps a big warehouse up town where rats are plentiful and big, and secured a dozen of them. He put them in an old-fashioned trap, which he covered with paper to prevent a too curious public from seeing what he had. Then he boarded a Tenth street car for home. Everything went along smoothly until the car reached the down-town street where he was to get off. He carelessly picked up the trap by the ring at the top and the bottom dropped out. The rats scurried all over the floor. There were several women in the car, and of course they screamed like fury. One of them actually fainted. Three of the rats were killed by some of the passengers, but the others escaped to the street and disappeared.—Philadelphia Record.

Contagious Yawning.

Two young men boarded an Oldtown trolley car one afternoon this week to settle a very peculiar wager, the one having bet the other a $5 silver certificate that he would make six people out of ten yawn anywhere without saying a word. A well-filled car was selected for the purpose. The young man who had proposed the wager had not taken his seat many minutes when he opened his mouth and gave a fearful yawn. He speedily followed it by another, and then awaited results. A moment later a middle-aged lady promptly put her hand up to her mouth to smother a cavernous yawn. Almost everybody in the car after that seemed in a desperate hurry to follow the lady's lead. Out of the nineteen people in the car there were fourteen who were seized by the affliction.—Bangor News.

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SILVER ORGANIZATION.

University Place Bimetallists Get Into Line for the Battle of 1900

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Neb., Dec. 31.—The cause of silver has not yet been extinguished in this place. Last Thursday evening several of its advocates met here and formed an organization known as the University Place Bimetallic Union. The officers elected are: President, W. N. Sarver; secretary, W. C. Keek.

For Sale.

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