BRITISH NAVY RESERVE FORCES.

In Case of War Ten Thousand Men Will Be Required to Man the Warships.

London, Jan. 2.—A news agency announces that the British naval reserves will be mobilized.

According to recent estimates, the reserve forces of the British navy number about 28,000 men. Of this number, it is calculated that at least 10,000 men will be required in case of war to complete the manning of the warships of Great Britain, which are understood to require a complement of 110,000 men, whereas only 100,000 are actually in service. The naval reserve problem has long been discussed by British authorities and the general opinion appears to be that the number of men available is far short of the number that would be required in case of war.

In addition to the men in the naval reserve, Great Britain has a large reserve fleet and a number of reserve merchant cruisers, including such vessels as the Campania, Lucania, Etruria, Umbria, Majestic, Teutonic, etc.

A special dispatch from Shanghai says that communications are constantly passing between the British and Japanese officers and it is understood that the Japanese ministers are to effect rapprochement with England on the basis of a joint guaranty of reform in Chinese administration.

New York, Jan. 2.—Regarding the rumor that the British government has decided to call into active service her naval reserve fleet, Bruce Ismay, agent of the White Star line, when seen today, said he had no official or other information on the subject.

At the office of the British consul, surprise was expressed at the report, inasmuch as Great Britain has a sufficient naval force to cope with any emergency that might arise in the east without calling to her aid the services of the naval reserve. The British consul here has no official information on the subject.

Will Dispense With Pension Attorneys.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Commissioner of Pensions Evans has been giving some attention to a proposition whereby the services of pension attorneys engaged in the prosecution of claims before the office may be dispensed with, and their work done by officials under government supervision. The present system, he says, is wrongful, and should have been done away with long ago.

Discontinuing the services of the attorneys would result in a great saving to both pensioners and the government, and liability to frauds in issuing pensions would be reduced to a minimum. The commissioner notes the fact that $11,500,000 has been paid out during the past 13 years to pension attorneys by applicants for the prosecution of their claims.

Island in Alaska to be Opened.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Commissioner Hanna of the general land office is preparing a report on the bill introduced into congress segregating the Indians now occupying an island off the Alaskan coast on the west peninsula of the island, and restoring the remainder to the public, with a view of opening it up to settlement.

Rich mineral deposits are found in the island, and an effort is being made to have the country opened to settlement. The west peninsula contains twenty-five square miles, sufficient, it is claimed, to locate all the Indians now in the island.

The Gold Conspiracy.

Columbus, O., Jan. 3.—The arrival of three close friends of ex-Senator Brice recently started the report that overtures had been made to the gold Democrats to vote with the Republicans for Brice for senator as an independent gold standard man, in the event that Hanna could not be elected. If all the Republican members who attended the regular caucus could be depended upon for this, there are enough Gold Democratic members to carry it through. Prominent Republicans favor the plan rather than elect a Silver Republican senator.

New Work Shop Law.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 3.—A new law limiting the production of goods in the work shops of Massachusetts state prison and other penal institution went in effect today. The law provides that not over 30 per cent of the number of inmates of any penal institution of the state having more than 100 inmates, shall be employed in any one industry, except in cane seating and the manufacture of bells. The chief objection to the law is the enforced idleness of prisoners, which makes them restless and difficult to control.

Idaho's Mineral Production.

Boise, Ida., Jan. 2.—The estimates of the mineral production of Idaho made by the United States assay office gives the following figures: Gold, $3,500,000; silver $7,110,000; lead, $1,500,000; total, $13,110,000; increase over 1895, $1,110,110.

The wreck of the steamer Cleveland has been pulled off the rocks.

The geologists of America have decided to hold their next convention in Boston.

Founder of Utah Missions.

New York, Jan. 2.—The resignation of the Rev. Dr. J. A. McMillan, corresponding secretary of the Presbyterian board of home missions, which was tendered and accepted four weeks ago, has just been made public. The cause of the resignation was the action of the last general assembly in directing the work to be done in the future by one secretary, instead of two, to result a certain plan of mission work, known as the Indiana plan, and favored by the Chicago leaders in the general assembly, notably ex-Moderator John L. Without of Chicago, and Dr. Kane of Bloomington, Ills.

Dr. McMillan founded the first Gentile mission in Utah, and he was one of the pioneer fighters in that territory in favor of the anti-polygamy law. Educational work started by him has developed into a series of academies and surrounding missions in the different valleys. Dr. McMillan, for ten years, was president of the College of Montana, located at Deer Lodge. He founded this college, and before leaving it to come to New York, eight years ago, secured the buildings, costing $175,000. He has been in the service of the home board twenty-seven years.

The board has not yet taken action on the remaining secretary, Dr. W. C. Roberts, who has not resigned, but those who know think there will be chosen a new man for the one secretary who is hereafter to do the entire work.

The Iowa Militia Invasion.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 2.—The report of Governor Drake, of Iowa, on the invasion of the state of Illinois by a company of the Iowa National Guard has been received by Governor Tanner. The investigation was made by Adjutant General Henry Knight, and the causes leading to the disturbance at Fulton, Ill., the moving of the head office of Modern Woodmen from Fulton to Rock Island, on Aug. 25. The report says:

"Company N Iowa National Guards, is located at Lyons, a mile from Fulton. A part of the Fulton company hearing a report of the conflict, assembled at their armory at Lyons without order and proceeded without uniform and bearing guns to the end of the Lyons bridge and remained there during the evening. Lieutenant Holleran, of the company, assisted the city marshal and the mayor to distribute guns, but denied distributing guns or rifles belonging to company N. Business men of Fulton deny knowledge of rifles belonging to the Iowa guard being used in the disturbance.

Adjutant General Knight says in conclusion: "I have come to the conclusion that the Iowa National Guard were not seen in Fulton on the night of August 31, nor were any members of the National Guard there in uniform nor in any other capacity than that of citizens."

Bar Room Tragedy at Seattle.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 3.—A shooting affray occured at Ballard recently, a suburb of this city, in which an unknown tramp was killed and Charles Ross, a saloonkeeper, was probably mortally wounded. The shooting occurred in Ross' saloon. No witness to it can be found.

Ross' condition is such as to preclude him from giving an account of the affair. All that is known is that four shots were heard to issue from the saloon. When the saloon was entered the dead body of the tramp was found lying on the floor, and Ross was lying behind the bar. The theory is that the tramp had a confederate. It is based on the fact that while four shots were heard there were but two empty chambers in Ross' pistol, and one in the tramp's. It is supposed that an attempt was made by the tramp to hold Ross up, and rob the saloon.

Arizona Canal System.

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 2.—The Arizona Canal System and Arizona Improvement company will pass at once into the hand of a receiver. The application for a receiver, made by the trustee for the main bondholders, the Merchants' Loan and Trust company of Chicago, was sought to be withdrawn when the court indicated a choice at variance with the wishes of the petitioners.

Intervention was then made by minor bondholders and by local users of water in their own behalf, who demanded a receivership. Today Chief Justice Street denied the motion of the Chicago interests to dismiss the foreclosure suit and recognize the minority bondholders as parties thereto. Attorneys for the receiver appointed C. J. Hull, and states he has secured his bonds in the necessary sum of $150,000.

Fortune for Charity.

Paris, Dec. 31.—The latest information regarding the will of the late Dr. Thomas B. Evans, the American dentist, is that, although it may be attacked, there is little chance to set it aside. All the classes are not known, but it transpires that Dr. Evans remembered all of his relatives. He excluded from inheritance John Evans and his heirs. Dr. Evans left five-sixths of his fortune to charities in Paris and elsewhere. He was very sensitive.

Floods in Washington.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 1.—The Chehalis valley is a dreary waste of water. That is all that confronts the eye in every direction. Farms and highways alike under several feet of water, and men go from one point to another in boats. Fish Commissioner Little, when he left the fish hatchery on the Chehalis river, rowed across farms and up the country road, now buried under ten feet of water.

Mr. Little arrived from the flooded district today on the first train that had succeeded in getting through. He says the loss will not be very extensive, but the prospect is not at all encouraging. Some of the farmers will lose a large part of their grain and hay stored on the farm, and others may lose some stock.

The floods are the highest ever known in the valley. The smaller streams, many of them tributary to the Chehalis, are out of their banks and the usually placid creeks have become raging torrents. The Sachet is four feet higher than it has ever been, and the Wynoochee is over the railroad tracks. At Oakville the branch line is under three feet of water.

It is not probable that much stock will be lost, if the water subsides soon. The farmers will lose heaviest on their stores of grain and hay, which were in the granaries or in stacks.

MEXICO'S CONCESSIONS.

Islands in the Gulf of Mexico Abound in Guano and Coral.

City of Mexico, Jan. 1.—Eduardo Chesio has received a concession from the Mexican government for exploiting natural products of several uninhabited islands in the Gulf of Mexico, where there are large amounts of guano, woods and medicinal plants, and also for a sponge and coral collection. It is understood this concession has been offered for sale in the United States.

President Diaz has approved of the concession for establishing packing houses at various points in the republic. The department of communications and public works has received thirty-seven plans and specifications from architects and builders both here and abroad, for the new legislative palace, which is to accommodate both the senate and chamber of deputies and will cost $1,500,000, exclusive of land and foundation of the building. A decision in the matter will be given early in January.

STEEL WAGE SCALE.

But Slight Change in the Wage of Carnegie Men.

Pittsburg, Jan. 1.—A new scale for the employees of the steel works and blast furnaces under the control of the Carnegie company has been posted to take effect Jan. 1. The new scale makes but slight changes in the wages of men employed by the day but the scale for tonnage men shows a reduction variously estimated at from 5 to 25 per cent. However, agents of the company claim that the tonnage will get equally as much money as they did at the time when the last scale was first adopted, their claim being that improved machinery introduced during the past few days has enabled the men to handle a greater tonnage. Tonight many of the tonnage men are declaring that they will not sign the new scale, but a considerable number have already signed.

THE IOWA TRIBE.

Petition for Pro Rata Distribution of Trust Funds.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—The Iowa tribe of Indians living in Kansas and Nebraska have just sent to congress a petition to have their tribal trust funds distributed pro rata among the members of the tribe and credited to the several shareholders individually on the books of the treasury department, to be disbursed for the benefit of each individual, at the discretion of the secretary of the interior, the balance, if any, to be paid to the heirs of each at death under the law. The petition is signed with full written signatures, with the exception of one man, the only adult in the tribe who cannot write his own name.

Shagway Route the Best.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Secretary Alger has received two reports from Captain Robinson, the contract quartermaster at Seattle, touching the respective merits of the different trails from the seaboard into the Klondike country. He made a thorough inquiry, at the direction of the secretary, and in substance his conclusions reached, after conference with Jack Dalton and other experts, is that the Dalton trail is well adapted to the use of the government expedition during the winter, but that the Skagway route is probably the best.

A WIFE'S DEVOTION.

Lost Her Life While Trying to Save Her Husband.

Grand Forks, N. D., Jan. 1.—While removing debris from the Hotel Dakotah ruins the remains of Mr. and Mrs. Howe, who perished in the fire, were found. The bones of Mrs. Howe lay on top of those of her husband, which establishes the theory that she lost her life while trying to save him. Mr. Howe was a cripple. The remains will be sent to Michigan for interment.

MINING NOTES.

The prediction is made that Fish Springs will double its output this year.

How good claims were lost in Utah the last fiscal year for non-performance of assessment work.

The last shipments from Alta for the season were made last week. The season has been a fairly good one.

Reduction works are to be erected in Humboldt, Nev., to treat ores that range from $10 to $40 in gold to the ton.

A. H. Hanson says that he panned gold from rock taken out of the Copper Tom claim in Wyoming, that would run up to $200 per ton recently.

In the Bradshaw district, Beaver county, the best-known mine is the old Cave, which has turned out more ore than any and is now promising a renewal of its old-time good production.

Max Schaffer took a trip into Nevada last week in search of antimony for Brice of Chicago. This notwithstanding the fact that the Engineering and Mining Journal declares Brice's scheme a fraud.

One thousand tons of ore a day are being run through the great De La Mar mill at Delamar, Nev., most of which comes from the 1000-foot level. There is talk of doubling the capacity of the mill next spring.

The Golden Star, Gold Mountain district, said a dividend amounting to $2,500 on January 1. This was the first mine in the district to pay a dividend, and stockholders expect to pocket earnings regularly hereafter.

Captain J. E. De La Mar has paid into the Salt Lake land office $1,710 within the past few days on applications for a patent. Most of this is in West Dip, and extensive development is to be undertaken early in the year.

At the bottom of a 135 foot shaft in the Copper Mountain property, a nine-foot ledge has been encountered which assays 25 per cent copper, 3 ounces silver and $2 in gold per ton. Should the ledge pay extensive the mine will become a producer.

The Horn Silver surprised mining men last week by paying a dividend of $30,000, making a total up to date of $3,150,000, for two years past nothing but development work has been done. Orders have been opened up, and the value of the company has been increased to nearly a quarter of a million.

On December 1 one of the largest coal contracts known in the West was made by the Southern Pacific with the Pleasant Valley Coal company for coal from its Scofield, Utah, mines. It calls for 175 cars per week, to be delivered at Ogden, for an indefinite period, which amount is now being supplied.

Work has been resumed on the Gold Dollar in the Little Cottonwood. The tunnel, which is now in several hundred feet, will be put in 100 feet further on a contract. A large body of low-grade, gold-bearing material has already been disclosed in the property, and the owners believe that in a very short time a shipping quality will be encountered.

Veins of gilsonite of sufficient size to warrant development are reported to have been discovered on Willow creek in Middle Park, Colorado. An effort will be made during the coming summer to test the product as paving material. The gilsonite is similar in appearance to that found in Utah. The veins are from three to four feet wide, and the supply apparently inexhaustible.

In the Bradshaw mountains, Ariz., is a silver mine that is perhaps the greatest today in America. Returns from the smelter show that in all the settlements its ore never yielded less than $270 in silver and as much as $933 per ton in that metal, in addition to 20 per cent lead and gold of the value of $6. A small seam was followed down from the surface until today at a depth of 400 feet there are fourteen inches of high grade ore. Machinery for the development of the mine is on the ground, and greater depths will be sought. Utah capital is invested in the property.

Operations in the Free Silver mine at Aspen, Colo., have been suspended after over three years of continuous work and the expenditure of nearly $200,000, without the return of a cent. Some 5,000 feet of prospect work has been done at a depth of 1,200 feet.

Veins of gilsonite of sufficient size to warrant development are reported to have been discovered on Willow creek, in Middle Park, Colo. An effort will be made during the coming summer to test the product as paving material. It is similar to the Utah gilsonite.

The Queen of Sheba group of mines in Spring Creek district, in western Juab county, is located on the south span of the Deseret range, at an altitude of 400 feet. The group of four claims all joining is equipped with a mill run by water power, having a six-foot Pelton water wheel and 450 feet fall of water. The mill has three Crawford mills and a Gates improved rock crusher, and has a capacity of thirty tons a day. A dynamo for incandescent lighting in the mine is also run.

Mining Department.

MAY HELP A BANK.

An Insolvent Denver Institution Owns a Valuable Mine.

When Receiver Schofield of the Denver Union National Bank assumed charge of the trust, he discovered that a mining property located in New Mexico was one of the securities upon which the bank had made liberal advances. The receiver is a New Mexican of several years standing, and he happened to have heard favorable mention of the mining property. He made a quiet investigation which convinced him that the mine would be a valuable asset. Acting on the hope of making the effort bring rich returns, the receiver proceeded with the necessary legal preliminaries, got possession not only of the trust deed but of all the liens on the property. He foreclosed the deed and took a decree on all the liens in the United States court at Albuquerque, and after waiting until the period of redemption had expired sold the property and bought it in for the Union National.

All these movements required time and it was not until yesterday that returns were received upon assays taken across the face of the main vein in the mine.

The assays show values running up to $146 in gold and silver to the ton, the silver values being very small. Arrangements have been made for a mill run, and it is believed the mill run will produce even higher returns than those found after a few days' work in cleaning out the drifts.

The mine is known as the Iron King. It is located in the Cochiti district, a district which is coming rapidly to the front, as outside capital has become interested and operations on a large scale are on the tapis. The Iron King is a well developed property and was operated for some time, the results being kept secret. It would have cost upwards of $250,000 for outside parties to have taken up the claims of the Union National, and it is believed by persons who have made investigation that the failed bank now has possession of one of the most promising mines of New Mexico. The property embraces about ten acres, and includes a millsite and the control of water privileges which are very valuable. The high-grade ore body is fifteen feet across, and the values are such that it will pay to ship the ore to the smelters. The bank now has an absolute title to the property.

The actual extent of the rich ore body in the Iron King is not known, but it is believed that the vein is thirty-two feet wide. This is the width of the vein of the Lone Star, an adjoining property. Reports from the mine show that the values are increasing with development.—Rocky Mountain News.

Cheap Mining and Milling.

Some reference was recently made herein to the low rate of mining and milling gold ore in various localities in South Dakota, Colorado, Australia, Alaska and California. Subsequently a statement appeared from one of our traveling correspondents that at the Mosaic Quartz mine, east of Jackson, near Volcano, Amador county, California, where the vein carried an average value of $2 per ton, ore is mined and milled at an average cost of 60 cents per ton. This statement has elicited several inquiries as to its authenticity, the low cost of mining and milling having attracted considerable attention. The statement is believed to be substantially correct, though details are not to hand.

Such low rate is, however, not unprecedented in California. At the Spanish mine, Washington, Nevada county, has been furnished a similar record. There the vein averaged nine-ty feet width, the hanging wall being a soft shaly slate, the pay ore being found on that side. There was a 1,200-foot tunnel, the vertical distance from the surface being 350 feet. The ore was hauled out by gravity, the empty cars being hauled back by mules. The ore was passed through a Blake rock-breaker and ground in roller mills, of which there were three of five feet and one of four feet diameter. The mills made fifty-eight revolutions per minute, and were fed by automatic ore feeders. The ore only yielded a trifle over 50 cents per ton, yet a profit of 32.6 cents per ton resulted, the total cost of mining and milling the ore being 56½ cents per ton. The percentage of profit was 32.8 of the total. In the previous month 2,796 tons of ore were worked, which yielded $1.16 per ton. The profit was 56 cents per ton, or about 48 per cent of the total. The profit that month on a yield of $3,268.40 was $1,572.91. The cost of mining that month was 57½ cents and of milling 23 cents per ton, an average for the two months of 56½ cents per ton.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Sale of Mexican Copper Mines.

The sale of the Inguaran copper mines in Mexico to Rothschild and Mirabeaud of Paris for several million dollars is the result of prolonged investigation of this great property, which has long been known to be one of the greatest copper deposits on the globe. Several experts have come over from France to report and all agreed on its value and on the enormous quantity of ore. Rothschild and Mirabeaud will build two lines of railway, one in connect with the western branch of the Mexican National railway and the other to the west coast, so as to have connection with the Pacific ocean. The deal is one of the most important ever recorded in the mining history of that country, and the mines under their new ownership, will be made one of the greatest copper producers in existence.

Blasting Coal by Hydraulic Process.

On account of the many dangers attending ordinary methods of blasting in coal mines, a safer process of loosening the coal has long been a desideratum. Such a device—a new $20 dynamite apparatus—has lately been exhibited before the Manchester (England) Geological Society by James Younge, the inventor, and its merits explained. The apparatus consists of a hydraulic ram ridge, eighteen inches in length, three inches in diameter, and weighing thirty pounds; also a small but powerful hand pump, fitted with a pressure gauge of about twenty pounds weight. In using it the coal is bored underneath to the usual depth, and a hole drilled near the roof to about the same depth as the boring, in the same way as for blasting, after which the cartridge is placed in the hole and pushed to the back; no "stemming" is required. The pump is coupled to the cartridge, the suction pipe is placed in a small bottle of water, and work commences. Very soon the gauge begins to show the rising pressure—half a ton, a ton, a ton and a half, two tons, to the square inch.

During this time a cracking sound is heard, indicating the shearing off of the coal at the back. The gradual way in which the work is done, without shock or jar of any kind, prevents even the least damage to coal or roof, in striking contrast to the action of explosives. The time occupied is rated at twelve minutes—this including the placing of the cartridge in the hole, connecting the pump, getting down the coal, withdrawing the cartridge from the hole, and getting to the next place.

MINES WHICH HAVE PAID BEST.

Some Properties That Have Returned More Than $10,000,000 in Dividends.

The best dividend paid by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, making its total distribution $50,850,000, is worthy of special mention for the paying of the half-hundred mark in millions. The Consolidated California & Virginia, on the Comstock lode, paid $37,508,800, but besides this quite the possessor of the "Big Bonanza" there is no record of any mining company returning to its shareholders so much money as the Calumet & Hecla has done. In the United States the Ontario has paid $12,445,000 and the Grand Mountain $12,120,000. There are no others with records of more than $10,000,000. In Australia the Broken Hill Proprietary Company has a record of $9,982,000, or $8,795,000, including shares of subsidiary companies which have been distributed, and the Mount Morgan, one of $4,400,000, on shareholders in El Callao, of Colombia, have received $9,000,440. The Rietfontein in South Africa, has paid $1,024,000 up to the end of 1895, and the De Beers diamond mines $8,194,143 since the consolidation, while several of the companies which entered this union had paid large dividends before it was effected. The Rio Tinto copper mines of Spain have yielded their present owners $5,757,000 from 1879 to 1895, both years inclusive; how much the ancients got out of them we have no means of knowing.

In referring to the above mines as being the largest dividend payers we do not lose sight of the great bonanzas of Mexico and South America—Guanajuato, Zacatecas, Yachora, Cerro de Pasco, Potosi and many others—of which the production was huge and the profit must have been enormous. The Spanish king received a fifth of the product as his royalty, and the silver miners, many of them at least, became rich. But of all this we have no definite records. Nor have we of many other famous mines of which the exploitation began long ago, like the mines of Laurium and Alamden, or those of the Harz and the Erzgebirge. Certain of these mines have been worked with fair continuity for nearly 900 years, and a small dividend per annum for many years may exceed a large one for a few years. The Calumet & Hecla, however, has had the good fortune to pay a large dividend for a good many years already, and the end is not yet in sight.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

Mining Notes.

The Midnight mill in Red River, New Mexico, is running full swing. There are about twenty-five men at work between the mine and the mill. Three shifts of eight hours are being run.

The Topeka people at Central are taking out lots of the rich gold ore, and last week made shipments of nearly a ton of this rich ore, the returns from which are sure to be very high.

An important strike was recently made in the Hidden Treasure property on Willow creek, in the Elizabethtown mining district of Colfax county, New Mexico. A three-foot vein of ore giving values of $90 to $400 being opened in the drift from the 150-foot level. The company recently placed hoisting machinery on the working shaft and now proposes to add a milling plant.

Deep mining promises to be the rule in Leadville, and during the next year a number of deep shafts are to be sunk to catch the rich ore deposit uncovered in the 900-foot shaft of the Mab. The bosses of the Mab have commenced sinking again to get under the ore body, and will not commence shipping until the extent of the ore has been shown.

The Standard tunnel into Deacon hill at Cripple Creek is now 1,350 feet on its way and making rapid progress with the new air drills. It is expected that about the 10th of January the tunnel will tap the Orinaba vein at a point 300 feet below the collar of the Fanny B. shaft. Before starting up the machinery plant the Cripple company secured leases running for from seventeen to twenty-four months on the Orinaba, Fanny B., Little Mac and Black Bells, and has also made a contract with the Elkton Company for drainage. The survey shows that the tunnel will tap the Elkton vein at a depth that will furnish great relief from the expense of raising water.

A big lead has been struck by Joseph Omer and William Hart in the Richmond lode, northeast of Ward. It is within almost perpendicular granite walls. It is a true fissure, and at the point of its encounter is averaging the ten feet in width. While the whole body appears to be mineralized, yet the most attractive object is a pay streak from ten to twenty inches wide that carries ore worth $20 per pound. This rich ore in character and appearance resembles some of that for which the famous Golden Age mine of Tomestown, only a few miles distant, became so widely noted; also that of the neighboring properties, the John J. and Last Chance. The ore is massive tellurium, speckled with free and rusty gold. The owners are now engaged in sorting a few sacks of the richest of the stuff for Christmas nuggets. The point where this stuff was encountered is but sixty feet below the surface.