

more work for the men who need work, good health; great hopes, and not one portent of evil.

The bells that ring in the new year should indeed be joy bells and the "Happy New Year" that passes from lip to lip should be echoes of the bells.

The U. S. Mineral Product

THE Department of the Interior has put out its annual table of the quantity and value of the mineral products of the United States. This year the table includes the yield of minerals annually from 1905 to 1914. It is a colossal showing. Running over it one finds himself saying, involuntarily, "It is enough to run the world's engine." The next thought is: "How" omnipotent was the forethought that originally freighted the world for its mighty voyage!"

Through the ages man has been learning how to utilize these gifts to his own use, and his success gives us glimpses of the progress he has made in his conquest of the earth and its treasures, since he, a naked savage began to climb up into enlightenment.

Come to think of it his advance, if traced, would seem to be marked by the progress he has made in utilizing the gifts from the mineral kingdom.

He invented the bow and arrow and killed birds with them. When one, more observing than the others, thought to tip his arrow with a sharp flint, he was able to bring down a deer. Then the price of venison was reduced 70 per cent in a year.

When the first gold and silver were found the girls of that period wanted the nuggets for nose and ear ornaments, and the man who had them could exchange them for venison enough to enable him to live almost without labor.

When the contents of the cave in which the Cavemen of the early world lived caught on fire and everything within it was consumed, except

the white and yellow nuggets, then two new truths were learned, to-wit, the nuggets were indestructible but their forms could be changed by fire, and, second, the fire did not change their lustre. Then the first rude jeweler opened a store and exchanged bangles and nose rings, and ear rings for meat and clothing, and wild rye for bread, and manufactured gold and silver from the native nuggets and soon began to wear finer skins for clothing and to eat the choicest cuts of steak, and his neighbors began to be envious of him.

When he heard that a conspiracy was being formed to slay him and loot his place of business, he offered bangles to those who would help defend him and by them overthrew and killed the conspirators. For this, he was elected chief. He was able, too, to marry the prettiest girl in all that region, not because of any graces, physical or mental, but because of the bangles and nose and earrings.

His fame spread and when men from far in the interior drove their flocks to the seashore and exchanged them for his manufactured jewelry, then land in the interior advanced in value.

When he came to sell the flocks and herds to his neighbors, he charged them double the prices he had paid. That was the first interest. Then he became king and his first recommendation to his parliament was that for purposes of defense there should be a treasury and the sovereign power should alone issue money and declare the value thereof. The bill was entitled, "For the better regulation of the currency," and was introduced by the J. J. Knox of Antiquity. The result was that the state officers wore soft furs every day, and the people worked. It has been so ever since.

But we are digressing. This table shows that in 1905 the country produced 4,265,742 troy ounces of gold of the value of \$88,180,700; in 1914, 4,572,976 of the value of \$94,581,800, and the value

of the product in the intervening years has been almost the same every year.

The silver produced in 1905 was 56,101,600 troy ounces, with a value of \$34,222,941; in 1914 there was produced 72,455,100 of the value of \$40,067,700. As a rule the product has increased nearly every year and the value has decreased. It shows to silver miners a loss of \$50,000,000 annually because of the nefarious legislation of 1893.

The copper product of 1905 was 888,784,267 pounds of the value (in New York City), of \$137,761,561; in 1914, 1,150,137,192 pounds of the value of \$152,968,946. In 1905 the zinc product was 203,849 tons valued (in St. Louis), at \$24,054,182, in 1914 the product was 343,418 tons of the value of \$35,028,636. In 1905 the lead produced was (refined) 307,514 of the value of \$28,906,316, in 1914 there was produced 512,794 tons of the value of \$39,997,962.

Immense advances in the quantity and price of iron and iron ores were made in the ten past years.

The figures in all the lists are like those by which the distances to the fixed stars are computed.

It is a shame that in such a land there is not work for all and a generous reward for the worker.

Preparedness

WHEN a great ship is making ready to put to sea, no matter if the day is fair and the waters of the bay are smooth as glass, nothing is omitted to insure the ship's safety. The bulkhead doors are tested to make sure that they can be quickly opened or closed; the boats are examined to see that in an emergency they can be quickly lowered; everything movable is made fast; the engineer is examining every piece of machinery and seeing if his assistants are cap-

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THAT MEANS SO MUCH TO THOSE WHO IN-
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CELEBRATION NEW YEAR'S EVE.
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