

tons over the preceding year. In addition to this there were 79,000 tons produced from imported ores or refined bullion. The quick silver output for 1896 was 33,012 flasks of 763 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 in amount of 1896 amounting to 865,062 ounces only. The silver production has thus been maintained better than has been anticipated.

Moreover, there were produced or refined from foreign ores and bullion from our smelters no less than 40,000,000 fine ounces of silver, making the total quantity refined or put into final marketable form in this country 85,465,175 fine ounces. This large production was almost entirely absorbed by the markets and the average price of silver bullion for the year shows an actual advance, having been 67 cents, although toward the close of the year it fell about 2 per cent below that point. Of the silver obtained from foreign ores 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 amounted to 77,984 short tons, showing a decrease of 4,074 tons from that of 1895. The production was fully up to the demand, however.

Of the output of spelter in 1896, 31,431 tons came from Illinois and Indiana districts, 36,331 tons from the Kansas-Missouri region and 9,332 tons from the eastern and southern producers. The latter as well as the Illinois district showed a decrease, a slight gain being reported from the Kansas-Missouri district. 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 anything at all. The output in 1896 was 141,770,089 tons, showing a gain over 1895 of 4,371,752 tons. On the other hand there was a decrease of 6,702,057 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 that point will be reached in 1897. The production of coke showed a gain of 445,276 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.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—From information received from the officers of the mint service and other agents employed to collect statistics of the production of gold and silver from the mines of the United States during 1896, the director of the mint estimates the production of gold at \$51,500,000;

an increase of \$5,000,000 over 1895, and 52,000,000 to 53,000,000 fine ounces, a decrease of two and a half to three million ounces.

STAKE PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

The monthly Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion was held in the Assembly hall today at 11 a. m., President Angus M. Cannon and counselors presiding.

The roll call showed an attendance of three Patriarchs, three High Councilors, Elias Morris and Wm. C. Dunbar of the presidency of the High Priests quorum, seven presidents of Seventies and eight home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were represented except the Twenty-third city ward and Forest Dale, Farmers, Mountain Dell, South Cottonwood, Bluffs Dale, West Jordan and East Jordan, in the country, as were the First, Second, Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders. There was a fair representation of the lesser Priesthood.

Nine brethren were authorized to be ordained to the office of Elder.

Elders Wm. W. Ritter, Angus M. Cannon, Theodore Curtis, C. W. Penrose and Joseph E. Taylor addressed the meeting, their topics being the advisability of studying the progress made as individuals and a community during the past year; the manifest improvement in the financial and moral condition of the people at large; the necessity of guarding against the spiritual indifference seemingly increasing in the world; the importance of the body of Priesthood in its influence through precept and example among the people; the benefits to be derived from a more faithful performance of duty in the coming year; the need of full restitution and settlement of claims in all cases where offense is given; the necessity of overcoming all evil habits and avoiding the spirit of apostasy; the proper interpretation of the Word of Wisdom; the danger of sitting in judgment upon others with reference to the keeping of this and other laws; the selfishness of fostering of righteousness; the reward to be gained from giving heed to the whisperings of the spirit, instead of waiting to be commanded in all things; the duty men owe to themselves and to posterity, with reference to the care of their bodies; the beauty of consistency in the observance of all the laws of God; the need of giving due heed to the counsels of all the servants of God.

The statistical reports of the organizations of the Stake for the six months ending December 31, 1896, were called for. Adjourned to the first Saturday in February, at 11 a. m.

WEATHER FOR A YEAR.

Atmospheric pressure (in inches and hundredths)—The mean monthly pressure was 25.65, which is .01 of an inch in excess of the normal. The highest barometer was 26.10 on December 29, and the lowest 25.00 on March 11th; range 1.10 inches. The

average monthly range was .70 of an inch.

Temperature—The mean temperature for the year was 51.5 degrees, which is only a fraction of a degree above the normal; highest, 97 degrees, on July 11th; lowest 2 degrees below zero on November 29th; absolute range 99 degrees; average monthly range 50 degrees; average maximum temperature 74 degrees; average minimum temperature 27 degrees; average daily range of temperature, 20.8 degrees; number of days the maximum temperature was below 32 degrees, 8; number of days the maximum temperature was above 90 degrees, 22; number of days minimum temperature was below 32 degrees, 115. The highest temperature during the past 22 years was 102 on July 30th, 1889, and the lowest 20 degrees below zero on January 20th, 1883.

Precipitation—The total amount of precipitation during the year, including rain, hail and melted snow, was 18.42 inches, which is 2.23 inches in excess of the normal. The greatest monthly amount was 3.67 inches in May and the least monthly amount, .25 of an inch in June. The greatest amount in any 24 consecutive hours was 1.08 inches on November 8th and 9th. The number of rainy days during the year was 105.

Relative Humidity (per cent.)—The mean relative humidity for the year was 56; average at 6 a. m., 63; at 6 p. m., 48.

Weather—The number of clear days during the year was 97, partly cloudy 123, cloudy 146, and days on which .01 of an inch or more of rain fell, 105. There was about 60 per cent. of sunshine during the year. Number of days with thunderstorms, 11; number of days with hail, 3; number of days with snow, 35.

Wind—The total movement of the wind during the year was 52,227 miles or an average of 4,352 miles per month. The highest velocity during the year was 48 miles per hour from the northwest on February 28th, and from the north on May 1st. The average hourly velocity for the year was 6 miles per hour. The highest velocity recorded during the past 22 years was 60 miles per hour on April 6th, 1893. Prevailing direction southeast.

J. H. SMITH,
Observer Weather Bureau.

THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, Dec. 17.]

Arrivals—The following named Elders from Zion arrived in Liverpool on Dec. 10, 1896, per American Line Steamer Rhynland: For the British Mission—Peter G. Johnston, Salt Lake City; Jesse Wm. Knight, Provo; Robert F. Glibrier, Lewistown, Idaho; Neil L. Gardner, Spanish Fork; Clarence Eldredge, Geotile Valley, Idaho; L. Geo. Clarke, Newton. For the Swiss and German Mission—Andy J. Stewart, George W. Meldrum, Provo.

Releases and Appointments—Elder George C. Nagle, president of the Swiss and German mission, and his wife, Sabra, who has been laboring with him, have been honorably released to return home on January 14, 1897.

Elder Peter Joutsenock has been ap-