

That we were warranted in our criticism has been impressed on us by the address of Dr. A. B. Macallum, Chairman of the Council, to the Empire Club in Toronto last week.

Dr. Macallum said, in referring to the appointment of the Council: "It is a new regime when the Government calls in scientific men to advise us." In view of the facts the statement is of course absurd. It might be overlooked if it did not indicate clearly the kind of scientist that has been chosen.

Dr. Macallum shows by this statement that he is not familiar with what has been done or is being done in the field which he is entering. Can we expect such a man to give useful advice as to what should be done? It is no great discredit to Dr. Macallum as a scientist in a special field that he is not familiar with what is being accomplished in some other fields. He has achieved an international reputation in his own subject without devoting attention to what has been done and is being done by scientists, permanently or temporarily in the employ of our Dominion and Provincial Governments. But does his statement convince anyone that he is qualified for the position of Chairman of the Advisory Council?

We cannot agree with Dr. Macallum that the right men have been selected. Referring to the appointment he said: "This new movement is one of the most enlightened things which the Government of Canada has done for a long time." Apparently the light failed before the men were selected.

ONTARIO'S BIG YEAR

Ontario set a new record in mineral production in 1916. The final figures are of course not yet available; but preliminary estimates show large increase.

Nickel matte produced in the Sudbury district during 1916 contained about 42,000 tons nickel, far exceeding the output of 1915, which was 34,039 tons.

Gold production of Ontario in 1916 amounted to about \$10,000,000 as compared with \$8,501,391 in 1915.

Silver production was less by 2,000,000 ounces than in 1915; but owing to the high prices prevailing the value was greater, amounting to about \$13,500,000 as compared with \$11,742,463 for 1915.

The value of the mineral production of Ontario for 1916 is estimated at about \$65,000,000. That of 1915 was valued at \$57,532,844.

The output of Cobalt silver mines up to the end of 1916 totals about \$136,000,000.

IRON-ORE MINING.

A large bulletin on iron mining in the United States, work on which has been intermittently progressing for several years, is being completed by D. E. Woodbridge, consulting engineer, and is expected to be ready for publication within a few months.

TO OPERATE TYEE SMELTER.

Victoria, B.C., Dec. 6.—The Ladysmith smelter, owned and formerly operated by the Tyee Copper Company, an English concern, has been purchased by New York capitalists and as soon as extensions and improvements involving an outlay of \$100,000 can be made the plant will be put in operation. Negotiations for the purchase have been under way for some months, Mr. Gardiner, representative of the Tyee Company having come out from England to complete them. Who are the purchasers or at what figure they acquired the plant is not announced, but it is admitted that they are "big people" in a financial and mining way. This will be their first entrance into the British Columbia field, and hence their acquisition of the property will prove welcome news to those interested in the development of the mining and smelting industry of the island.

For some time past efforts have been made by local organizations interested in the development of Vancouver Island's mineral resources to induce the Government to take steps to bring about the opening of the Ladysmith smelter, and only yesterday a deputation waited upon the Premier and Minister of Mines with that end in view.

The fact that the plant will soon be in full operation again giving employment to over 100 men and, by virtue of its extensions, will be in a position to produce blister copper whereas, when formerly in operation, it could produce only the copper matte, will mean a decided impetus to the industry on this Island. It will obviate the necessity hitherto experienced by the small operators of sending their ores outside of the Province to be refined. The Tacoma smelter, which is said to be owned by the Guggenheims, and in which considerable German capital is interested, has hitherto been tied up with large producers and latterly the amount of ore being treated there practically precluded the small producer on this coast from securing smelter facilities.

It is proposed by the new purchasers to render the plant thoroughly modern and install converters. The blister copper, instead of being sent out of the Province to be refined, will probably be treated at the big interior refineries. The present capacity of the plant is 700 tons daily, but after the additions are made this will be materially increased.

Mr. W. J. Watson, manager of the plant since 1906, leaves for Ladysmith to-morrow morning and will immediately start preparing for the improvements.

Of late rumors of the sale of the property have been rife. First it was reported that the Guggenheims, owners of the Tacoma smelter, had bought it, and then the Consolidated company of Trail was said to have acquired it. Mr. Gardiner states that neither interest is involved in the present transaction. The purchasers, it is said, have already acquired considerable holdings of valuable mineral bearing properties on this coast.

All the employes of the Cobalt mines will receive a bonus of 25 cents per shift as a result of silver having averaged over 70 cents per ounce for the month of November. Approximately two thousand six hundred men are affected, and about \$17,000 added to the monthly pay roll.