

features of life in Canada. How Mr. Van Wagenen could arrive at his conclusions baffles our comprehension. He has evidently been carried away by his own desire to prove his case and has missed the whole philosophy of mining rushes. It would be interesting, by the way, for Mr. Van Wagenen to enquire of British Columbia prospectors whether they do or do not wish the apex law put in force in that province. He might at the same time take occasion to get a little first-hand information of this not insubstantial, but much misunderstood, Canada. Meanwhile, by all that is right and desirable, we adjure Mr. T. F. Van Wagenen to leave us alone.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

An editorial ambiguity in our issue of June 1st gives the impression that the International Geological Congress is to meet in Toronto in August of this year. This is, of course, not the case. August, 1913, is the month of meeting.

From the Pan-American Union headquarters at Washington we have received a copy of the mining laws of the Republic of Colombia. The translation is credited to Mr. Phanon J. Eder, a New York barrister. This translation is the first done in twenty years. We notice that the prospector is given a very free hand, and that in the main the laws are liberal.

More good Canadian money going to Mexico. A Canadian syndicate, of which Mr. W. D. Ross, general manager of the Metropolitan Bank, and Mr. Strachan Johnson are members, is reported to have arranged for the purchase of two gold mines in Northern Mexico. The mines in question are the San Patricio and the Santa Ana y Anexas, both in the State of Parral.

The annual report of the Tilt Cove Copper Company, a British undertaking operating in Newfoundland, has just been issued. The gross profit during 1911 is shown to have been £23,381 13s. 3d., and the net profit £15,072 0s. 2d. Half of this amount is retained by the Cape Copper Company working the mines under agreement. The Tilt Cove Copper Company paid an interim dividend of sixpence a share last December, and a final dividend of 9d. per share is now to be distributed. The total distribution to shareholders during the year is thus equal to 3½ per cent., which can only be regarded as a very moderate return on the year's operations.

A gold mining district in British Columbia that has never been given a fair opportunity is that of Bridge River. It is true that for a time prospecting in this field was reasonably active, and much territory was "blanketed"; but in no instance was development systematically and persistently undertaken. There was reason enough for this, in that the quartz veins or

masses, although frequently large, carried low value, probably not averaging \$5.00 a ton, and there was no inexpensive way of taking in supplies or machinery. It is likely, however, that railway extensions will make the Bridge River readily accessible in the near future, in which event some of the quartz veins in the district would be well worth further attention.

The Audit Act permits the Government to remit duties when such action is deemed to be in the public interest. In consequence of representations from contractors and others in the West that Canadian cement manufacturers were unable to supply present urgent market requirements. The Hon. the Minister of Finance, to relieve the situation, has provided for the remission of half the duties for a prescribed period. It is questioned in some quarters whether this provision will be particularly effective; but, in any case, the situation is not likely to continue. Cement is now being consigned to the West in large quantities and it will not be long before the conditions will be again normal. Meanwhile there is no better indication of the rapid industrial development taking place in Western Canada than the increased demand for cement, the consumption of which has more than doubled in four years.

The discovery has been made in Ottawa that the present system of collecting and publishing Canadian trade statistics is not as perfect as it might be. In other words, it is as bad as it could be. Since there has been no attempt at co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial authorities, and since in each case the method of compiling and presenting such returns is different, the enquirer endeavouring to reconcile the apparently divergent results, either is driven to desperation, or recognizes in time the hopelessness of the task. It is announced that the Trade and Commerce Department has appointed a Commission, with a view to correcting this needlessly foolish state of affairs. The Provinces are to be asked to co-operate and doubtless will do so. The opportunity is favourable to bring about a much needed reform to provide for uniformity of methods and results in respect of mining statistics, and we would direct the attention of the Federal Department of Mines to the desirability of following the example of the Trade and Commerce Department in inviting the Provinces' co-operation towards the attainment of this purpose. Now, moreover, that the annual mineral production of the Dominion exceeds a valuation of a hundred million dollars, it is surely time that provision were made for the publication of statistical returns at more frequent intervals. With the co-operation of the Provinces (which, however, is essential), the Federal Department should experience no difficulty in issuing quarterly returns. Such action would be of real advantage to the industry.