

**GOVERNMENT DRILLING IN NOVA SCOTIA.**

The Government of Nova Scotia adopts the liberal policy of keeping and operating seven core drills for the benefit of the mining community. During the year 1910, five drills, of which three were diamond drills and two calyx drills, were kept in commission. The total footage drilled was 5,222 feet. Of this footage, 4,500 feet were done by diamond drill. In all fifteen holes were sunk, and in every case coal was the mineral sought. The strata drilled included sandstones, shales, conglomerates, clays, and grits of many varying degrees of hardness, and of every kind of texture.

The average cost per foot of diamond drilling is reported at 93 cents; whilst the corresponding figure for the calyx is \$1.44. The deepest hole bored was sunk with a 2-inch diamond drill. The depth attained in this instance was 1,217 feet; the cost per foot, 72 cents; the highest rate of boring per hour, 5 feet 3 inches; and the average footage per hour 1.2 feet. It is interesting to compare these figures with the performance of a 6-inch calyx. The calyx hole was sunk to 560 feet. The highest rate of boring per hour was 6 feet 4 inches; the average footage per hour 1.27 feet; and the cost per foot \$1.44.

It is not intended to institute comparisons between the two types of drills. The figures above are quoted merely because of their intrinsic interest. Incidentally it is noteworthy that the coal operators are the only persons securing the drills. It is surely worth while for a few of the gold-mine operators to put in a claim. Under proper control the diamond drill, which probably would do better work in the gold measures, could be utilized to great advantage.

**DEEP WELLS.**

The deepest well ever bored was started nineteen years ago near Rybuick, Upper Silesia, Germany. It was completed in one year and a half. The depth attained was 6,572 feet, and the diameter was from 3.6 inches to 2.7 inches. The total cost was \$18,241. The mineral sought was coal.

Another well, probably the fourth deepest, was drilled near Leipsic, Germany. The diameter of the core in this case was 11 inches to 1.3 inches. The total depth was 5,735 feet, and the cost \$53,076. The object sought was also coal.

The second deepest well was completed in 1905, after nine months' work. This was a diamond drill hole, sunk near Johannesburg. The depth reached was 5,582 feet, the core 2 to 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

A remarkable well, the deepest ever drilled with a cable, was sunk near West Elizabeth, Pa. With a 10-inch to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch core, this well attained a depth of 5,575 feet.

Very deep wells, in some instances exceeding 5,000 feet, have been drilled in Australia for water. From one well in Queensland a flow of 1,600,000 gallons of

water a day, having a temperature of 202 deg. F., was obtained.

**TITLES AND THINGS.**

In the eyes of Canadians nothing could well detract more from the dignity of Coronation week than the announcement that the organizer of the Cement Merger had been decorated with a Knighthood. Of itself this might be a matter of congratulation. But when our most eminent economist, our leading educationist, and several other distinguished public men are awarded trifling honours; and upon a young man, whose business reputation is not yet cleared of a serious stain, a knighthood is bestowed, it is time to call a halt.

Knighthood and other forms of royal recognition are the rewards of outstanding service to the public. Sir Max Aitken has performed no such service. His claim to distinction is based upon a remarkable facility in organizing mergers, in persuading the public to buy securities at an enhanced price, and in reserving for himself a disproportionate share of the spoil. His spectacular irruption into English politics gave him advertisement. More advertisement, of a different nature, was given him when Sir Sandford Fleming accused him publicly of unhallowed practises in the realms of high finance. And now his name stands upon the list of those whom our King delights to honour! It is to laugh, or to weep!

**"DATA."**

We rise again to defend a cruelly bullied and maltreated word. "Data" is the plural form of "datum." In no circumstances is it permissible to use the word in the singular.

The writers of mining reports constantly err in this respect. An example will soon have to be made of someone. Condign punishment should be meted out to all and sundry who misuse a defenceless but extremely useful word.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

The prestige of Sir Max Aitkin has apparently suffered no abatement. Knighthood followed hard upon the heels of what promised to be a lively scandal in cement. It will be interesting if the critics of Sir Max put a daub or two upon his fresh title.

Somewhere about 11,000 sovereigns, representing \$55,000 worth of gold, have been minted recently at Ottawa. The metal came from the Hollinger mill.

Practical encouragement has been offered in the shape of \$5,000, for the production of safe and satisfactory types of electric lamps for colliery work. Full particulars may be obtained from the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa.