

## THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

THE appointment of Mr. A. P. Low, B.A.Sc., F.R.G.S., to the directorship of the Geological Survey of Canada has been generally approved by the leading newspapers and journals of the Dominion. The *Mining Record* heartily joins in the general approbation of this appointment and cordially wishes the new director a long and successful career as the official head of a most important department. The following is from an Eastern exchange:

Mr. Low is a native of Montreal and was educated at the Montreal High School and McGill University. From the latter institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Applied Science in the year 1882, graduating with first rank honours. He was appointed to the staff of the Canadian Geological Survey in 1882, and was promoted to the rank of geologist in 1891. After making several surveys in Eastern and Northern Quebec, Mr. Low was engaged for more than six years in exploring the Labrador Peninsula, on the resources of which he is the recognised authority. In 1896 he received the McGill Memorial Prize from the Royal Geographical Society, in acknowledgment of the far reaching value of his services. In 1897 he accompanied the "Diana" scientific expedition to Hudson's Bay, and in 1903 and 1904 commanded the "Neptune" on a similar expedition to Baffin's Land and other parts of the far north. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and of the Royal Geological Society of England and a member of many other learned societies. Mr. Low, in addition to his high attainments as a geologist, is marked by a strong sense of the practical utility of his profession, and he is quite *au fait* with mining interests of the day. His splendid personality, as well as the qualifications already mentioned, augurs well for his directorship.

### DISINGENUOUSNESS OR MENDACITY ?

LAST month the *Mining Record* gave several notorious instances of what it truthfully characterised as the "deliberate misrepresentation or worse" indulged in by Wm. Blakemore. Mr. Blakemore published no denial of these. How could he when the evidence is all in favour of the position we took, and against him? He did however, publish the following:

#### "ANTHRACITE GALORE.

"The *B. C. Mining Record's* unreliability was never better illustrated than when it undertook to 'knock' the coal deposits of Queen Charlotte Island on April 28th, and on May 1st it was announced that the Western Fuel Co., of Nanaimo, 'had taken an option on one group of claims for the substantial figure of \$700,000. This comes of entrusting the conduct of a mining journal to a novice, who is either unscrupulous or ignorant, or both."

Now, apart from quoting three lines referring to the

Graham Island coal from an article contributed by Mr. Blakemore in October, 1904, to *The Engineering and Mining Journal* of New York, the only reference we then made to "the coal deposits of Queen Charlotte Island" was contained in the following: "But then, in 1904 it suited him (Blakemore) to 'boost' undeveloped coal measures on one of the Queen Charlotte Islands and depreciate the productive coal mines of Vancouver Island." We now ask: Were not the coal measures of the Queen Charlotte Islands correctly described as "undeveloped?" Undoubtedly they were, as is well and widely known.

Further—on Sunday, April 29, the *Nanaimo Herald* reprinted, under the caption: "IF IT WERE ONLY TRUE WHAT A STORY IT WOULD BE," an article to which it referred as follows: "Appended is an article that appeared in the *Vancouver World* on Friday last, on the front page of that truthful (?) journal, under headlines stretched across three columns, thus:

"ANTHRACITE FOUND IN QUEEN CHARLOTTE IS.  
"Western Fuel Co., of Nanaimo, Secures Claims  
"for \$700,000—General Manager to go North to  
"Initiate Development Work."

Then followed the article, which was simply a "fairy" tale, as was conclusively shown in the *Herald's* closing paragraph: "Superintendent Stockett, of the Western Fuel Co., on being shown the article by the *Herald* last evening said: 'It reads well, but there is not a shadow of truth in the story. The party who wrote it must possess a very vivid imagination.'"

And yet, days after this emphatic denial had been published Mr. Blakemore made use of the *World's* "yellow" story in a silly endeavour to show the *Mining Record* to be unreliable. So we ask: Is this another instance of brazen mendacity, or simply more low craft, similar to that we exposed last month in connection with Mr. Blakemore's falsity in bolstering up his own theories in contradistinction to the conclusions of Dr. R. W. Ells, a geologist of note and one whose reputation does *not* require to be supported by trickery. Mr. Blakemore, who certainly is "unscrupulous," and, as regards current mining events, decidedly "ignorant," may take his choice—either alternative is disgraceful, particularly in one who claims to be a civil and mining engineer of more than thirty years' standing. Perhaps the next time he shall undertake to assail the *Mining Record* he will avoid making his duplicity so self-evident by practising less transparent artifice than in this, his latest, futile attempt to discredit a journal which has earned and maintains its good name by honest and persistent endeavour to present only the truth to its wide circle of readers.

It has been officially reported by the mining recorder for Sloacan mining division that the majority of the mining properties in that division were fairly active during 1905, and that leasing had increased in favour with a number of miners and prospectors. There were at the close of the year no less than twelve properties in the district operating successfully under the leasing system.