

Now, however, this almost indispensable accessory to a modern copper smelter is an accomplished fact, and we take pleasure in offering the company our sincere congratulations on its having made this further important advance. The company's resident head officials are workers rather than talkers, so that the excellent work they have done and are continuing to do has not been and is not given nearly so much publicity as the doings of others whose achievements may possibly be more in the direction of working the public rather than in actual mining and smelting; yet they have faithfully and successfully done their part in demonstrating the practicability of mining and treating the low-grade copper ores of the Boundary at a profit, and we are glad to bear testimony to this fact. The Boundary is fortunate in having two such companies as the Granby and the B. C. Copper Company working along such lines as characterise their operations. Had it been otherwise it is certain that the district would not now hold the prominent position of being the largest producer of copper in Canada. May it not only retain this prominence but, by the more extensive development of its enormous mineral resources, make it still more striking.

In the July number of the *MINING RECORD* we published a brief abstract of a lengthy paper, by Mr. Eugene Coste, E.M., on "The Volcanic Origin of Natural Gas and Petroleum," read at last year's Annual Meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute and afterwards issued in pamphlet form by that institution. This month we give an abstract of a chapter—on the "Origin of Oil and Gas, and the Geological Conditions under which they are Found,"—of a bulletin, published by the Geological Survey of Ohio, U.S.A., on "The Occurrence and Exploitation of Petroleum and Natural Gas in Ohio," by Professor J. A. Bownocker, Assistant State Geologist. In his letter of transmittal to the Governor of Ohio last December, Professor Edward Orton, Jr., State Geologist, observed that "This topic has been previously carefully studied by the Ohio Survey and elaborate reports upon it were issued in 1886, 1888 and 1890, presenting the facts then known. During the next ten years the industry continued to make rapid progress in extent and value of output. No further investigations were authorized until 1900, when the Legislature again made appropriations for the work of the Geological Survey. This topic was considered as among the most urgent of all those presenting themselves for attention, and it was at once determined to bring the records of the discoveries and production of oil and gas down to date, while the facts were still available. Accordingly, in June, 1900, I appointed Professor John Adams Bownocker, of the Ohio State University, to take up the study of this subject, and he has pursued the same with great energy during the past three years. I submit the results of his labours with confidence that they will not only be found of great economic and scientific value at present, but also that their value will become increasingly apparent as time goes

on. There seems good ground for believing that the supply of oil and gas is short-lived. It was discovered but a few decades ago, yet we have already witnessed the rapid exhaustion of many important fields. It becomes doubly important, therefore, that we shall preserve while we can the most complete and detailed records of its discovery and use. It is believed that the present report, in connection with those before issued, will accomplish these ends, with credit to the State." In view of the fact that endeavours are now being made to determine whether or not petroleum occurs in British Columbia, and if so to turn it to practical account, it would appear that there is sufficient general interest in the subject to warrant the reproduction of information bearing upon it. In condensing Professor Bownocker's observations much interesting detail necessarily has had to be omitted, particularly the examples he quotes of Ohio or other oil or gas fields to support the several theories dealt with. However, it is probable the bulletin is obtainable from the Geological Survey of Ohio, and if so, those sufficiently interested can obtain for themselves copies for their fuller information.

The *Canadian Mining Review* criticises at some length the more prominent features of the prospects of the Imperial Coal and Coke Company, Ltd. It will be remembered that in our June issue we called attention to some ridiculous assertions reported to have been made in Spokane by one of those prominently associated with this promotion, which we have yet to be satisfied deserves the confidence of the public as an enterprise that would within a reasonable time prove profit-earning. It is not necessary for us to enumerate the categorically-stated objections of the *Mining Review*, which on the whole we think well taken, although perhaps incorrect in some particulars. Our contemporary closes with this observation: "The crux of the whole question is in the market, and that is already so glutted that it is a certainty that all the companies now operating cannot continue to do so. To increase the number at present is suicidal." While not prepared to give an unqualified assent to this sweeping conclusion, we recall that last January, when mentioning the announcement, then just made, that a company had been organized in Montreal to develop the Fording River coal areas, we remarked, "There is no longer, as at one period, any complaint as to the adequacy of the coal and coke supply, and the largest consumer of coke, the Granby Company, is about to supply its own needs by the operation of coal measures near Blairmore. As a question of increased production, it is a well known fact that market limitations and not any other reasons, prohibit any very considerable extension of the export-trade in connection with the operation of the Crow's Nest collieries." The position to-day is that the International Coal and Coke Company (organized by prominent Granby Company men), particulars of whose enterprise appear elsewhere in this issue, are now in position to commence coke-making, while the West Canadian Collieries Company, also operating in the