

Not seldom private mining enterprises are entered into without the advice of an experienced engineer. Costly mistakes are nearly always the result. Either the plant does not meet the requirements of the ore, and this is most frequently the case, or else there is a painful lack of harmony between the integral units of the overground and underground equipment. Special training, long experience and mature judgment are needed in determining just how much equipment a mine will pay for and just what that equipment shall be.

Although it may be out of the question for the small owner to engage the continuous services of a first-class consulting engineer, yet, as is pointed out in the article alluded to, the full benefit of his advice and guidance may be obtained by arranging to have him visit the mine at stated intervals.

It is, of course, in the actual purchase of the mine or property and in the first installation of equipment that the consulting engineer is most needed, for then his counsel will have a vital bearing upon future operations.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL TAX.

In our last issue we referred to the new British Columbia tax upon coal and coke. The subject is one of large importance alike to the operators of coal mines and to the owners of smelters and metalliferous mines.

It is worthy of remark that the British Columbia Legislature, in dealing with the matter, consulted none of those whose interests are most deeply affected. This is to be regretted.

It remains for the Canadian Mining Institute to discuss the questions involved and then take whatever action is thought fit. Meanwhile the Boards of Trade of Fernie and other towns are protesting vigorously.

MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The annual meeting of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia is to be held in Halifax on March 25th and 26th. The annual dinner, always a well-managed and profitable function, is set for the evening of the 25th.

The Council of the Society has issued a circular announcing that the chief topic of the meeting is to be the "Investigation of the Natural Resources of Nova Scotia." Among the guests of honor will be technologists of international reputation. In every respect, indeed, the meeting will be made the most notable in the history of the Society.

Nova Scotia possesses large and varied stores of mineral wealth. Coal mining is the Province's most important mineral activity. As yet iron mining has met with but slight encouragement. In fact almost all the progress made in this direction is due to the perseverance and courage of the companies organized and controlled by the Messrs. Drummond of Montreal.

The gold mining outlook, although relieved by occasional successes, is not bright. And for this there is no sufficient reason. We believe firmly that many of the abandoned gold mines of Nova Scotia could be made to yield handsome profits if the mining and treatment problems were attacked as systematically and as scientifically as similar problems in South Africa have been.

Other minerals, such as gypsum, marble, barite, stibnite, infusorial earth, etc., etc., occur abundantly. There is also promise of workable tin deposits.

What Nova Scotia needs is just what the Mining Society is attempting to do. The interest and advice of geologists and engineers from the outside world cannot but be immediately helpful.

NOVA SCOTIA STEEL AND COAL COMPANY.

The annual report of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, noticed fully on another page, has exceeded expectations. Although affected to some extent by the depression of last autumn, the company has succeeded in showing a large profit on its operations for 1907. Undoubtedly both its outputs and its profits would have been larger had it not been for the slackening of all business in the last months of the year. The falling off of 62 per cent. in the earnings of United States Steel for last December gives a fair criterion as to the manner in which Nova Scotia Steel weathered the storm.

A strong and growing concern, built up by men who were at once careful, progressive, and cleanly ambitious; managed by a capable and energetic executive; the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company is a Canadian enterprise of which Canadians may well be proud.

Editorial Notes.

Our Nova Scotia correspondence in the current number should be read by all coal mine operators. Although our news letters from all the mining provinces are valuable and interesting, the questions dealt with by our most easterly correspondent are important in a large and national sense.

The Government of Newfoundland is being criticized for expending thirty thousand dollars on coal boring operations. It is stated that parties are sent out year after year without proper appliances. This criticism seems hardly fair. Even a remote chance of finding coal in Newfoundland should not be neglected.

Estimates of the production of mining camps are very seldom accurate. Even when issued officially they are either incomplete or approximate. The importance of correct returns is indisputable. Investors are influenced largely by a mining district's record. THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL receives regularly reports from many mining companies. It would help us greatly if every Canadian mining company sent us monthly returns.