

The pomp and circumstance that mark the Coronation are not idle display. The whole huge ceremonial will be not alone an opportunity for the exchange of courtesies between Great Britain and her sister nations—it will be a majestic demonstration of the fact that in power, in prestige, and in dignity Great Britain has gained ground. And it is peculiarly inspiring to think that from what were "colonies" and now are "Dominions" comes the moral and material support that the Mother Country needs.

There is another side, however. To Great Britain we owe the most profound debt that nation can owe to nation. Without Great Britain in the background our treaty-making, our plans for defence, and, indeed, our commercial development were a farce. To her navy, and to her gold, must be attributed a surprising proportion of our prosperity. The debt of obligation is still ours. This is sentiment, but it is sentiment that can be utilized as an impelling force in regulating, first, our commerce with the Empire, and, second, our commerce with other nations.

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The King is soon to visit Canada. The welcome that he will receive here, unbounded as it may be, will express but feebly the desire of every true Canadian to be true to Canada and to the Empire.

A MODERN INSTANCE.

As an illustration both of the urgent need of revision of the regulations under which the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, administers Federal lands, and also of the anomalous situations that may arise, we shall recite here an actual instance that took place a few weeks ago.

Two men made application for a coal mining location in the west covering 5,160 acres. All the requirements of the regulations were fulfilled as regards staking, making proper application, and making the necessary deposits of \$5 each. The stakers had then thirty days from the date of staking wherein to put in their application. After that application had been considered favourably by the Department at Ottawa, a process covering two months, they were given another thirty days in which to make payment of the annual rental of \$1 per acre, a total of \$5,120.

Being unable to raise the money, the men went to the place and, on the morning when their claims would have been cancelled for non-payment of the rental, they restaked the claims. Thus they succeeded by a very simple evasion of the law, in postponing payment of the rental for another three months.

This process might go on indefinitely. For obvious reasons it would be neither practicable nor seemly for anyone else to attempt to jump the claims. For equally obvious reasons it is not well that the regulations encourage this kind of evasion.

It has been suggested that the immediate payment of one years' lease—\$1 per acre—be required, and that

provision be made to return this money in case the lands prove not available. No doubt this would be more business-like. It might, of course, become a hardship to the prospector. But, as under present conditions the prospector is legally obliged to pay this acreage tax and as only by acting contrary to the spirit of the regulations can he avoid payment, it is illogical to continue the system that now obtains.

The loss of time, the sickening delay, the misunderstandings that arise in trying to control from Ottawa, coal lands in the far west, are no longer tolerable. Had the Minister of the Interior a knowledge of mining investment, or even a sense of humour, he would voluntarily forego the privilege of breeding confusion, strife, and all the ills that are engendered by long-distance maladministration.

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

In our issue of April 15, 1911, we referred editorially at some length to a paper read by Mr. W. H. Prest on the subject of prospecting in Nova Scotia. The paper in question was a short and succinct presentation of the problems that confront the prospector and of the methods that had best be followed.

In this issue of the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL our readers will find an ampler and far more comprehensive view of the matter. Not only do the principles and points enunciated bear specifically upon Nova Scotian gold mining, but they also apply with equal force to certain large tracts in New Brunswick and Quebec that are known to be gold-bearing.

The moral that is deducible from Mr. Prest's article is that prospecting must be controlled by common-sense. The vague wanderings of the boulder-cracking bushman are of little use. The academic meanderings of the pure geologist are of less use. Only the ardent and intelligent labours of the trained modern prospector are calculated to bring results. The thoughtful man will know instinctively just what geological lore is of use to him, and he will use it along with his own excogitations.

We firmly believe that, if the right steps are taken, Nova Scotia will yet vindicate itself as a gold-mining country. In any case, nothing could be more opportune than Mr. Prest's paper. We commend and endorse it.

The Ontario Bureau of Mines has made an addition to its staff in the person of Mr. T. F. Sutherland, who is to be Assistant-Inspector of Mines. Mr. Sutherland is a graduate of the Kingston School of Mines. Some years ago he suffered his apprenticeship in the gold mines of Eastern Ontario. Since graduation he has spent seven or eight years in mining in south-eastern British Columbia and Portland Canal. He also is familiar with Cobalt and Porcupine. Mr. Sutherland's appointment, we confidently expect, will meet with approval.