

there is not a colliery in Canada equipped with rescue apparatus.

Considering the rapid extension of the coalfields of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, it is pre-eminently desirable that fully equipped stations be established at suitably central points where groups of mines could be served. Such a station is proposed for Pictou County, Nova Scotia, where the collieries of the Acadia Coal Company and of the Intercolonial Coal Company are situated. Perhaps the best demonstration of the practical utility of rescue apparatus was given last year, when a party of fire-fighters was sent by the Dominion Coal Company to fight a conflagration in the workings of one of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's mines. Since then the latter company has ordered equipment for its own collieries.

From both the humanitarian and the business points of view rescue apparatus, providing means of respiration in irrespirable atmosphere, is a modern necessity. The Canadian Mining Institute will do well to encourage, by every means possible, the general introduction of any approved type of apparatus in Canadian coal mining centres.

FROM REAL LIFE.

A mining engineer, manager of a well-known Ontario mine, has sent us a naive document. From a town in one of the middle states a searcher after truth addressed a letter to our correspondent, who, in turn, has forwarded it to us.

The letter consists of a series of leading questions concerning certain Cobalt mines. Not only does the enquirer demand specific information about these enterprises, but he requests that the opinions of the engineer's friends be obtained. "I would like very much," declares this ingenuous citizen of the great republic, "for you to answer by return mail and state what you and others, who should know, think."

As if to bind the engineer irrevocably, a dime (ten cent piece) was cunningly affixed to the back of the letter by means of mucilage. Under it is a legend that should be preserved: "Please buy Canadian stamp for my return directed envelope and please keep balance for trouble in replying." That he might be sure of receiving full measure for this staggering fee, the writer takes advantage of a blank space remaining to subjoin one last query.

Fantastic as is this letter, it is not altogether out of keeping with the attitude of the public towards mining engineers. We know of many instances that illustrate this point. Often the mining engineer is offered a fee at which a bricklayer would scoff.

A CONTRADICTION.

Positive assertions have been made in late newspapers to the effect that the O'Brien Mine, Cobalt, has

been sold. There is no foundation for either assertions or rumors on this point. We are authorized to state that no such transaction has taken place.

A CORRECTION.

In the statements of ore shipments from Cobalt the O'Brien Mine has been done an injustice through the omission of the figure indicating millions of pounds. It will be noticed that the O'Brien, in point of view of tonnage, is third in the list of shippers.

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

The following is a list of gentlemen elected to membership at council meeting held on December 5th, 1908: Wm. J. Elmendorf, M.E., Box 1039, Spokane, Wash., U.S.A.; W. A. Fairchild, M.E., Nipissing Mines, Cobalt, Ont.; H. E. Lawson, M.E., 38 Elgin Ave., Toronto, Ont.; Joseph T. Mandy, M.E., Box 585, Cobalt, Ont.; Morgan C. Milne, Elk Lake, Ont.; John T. Shadforth, Victoria, B.C.; Henry Strangways, Crean Hill Mines, Victoria Mines, Ont. Associate Members—A. E. Bowers, Northport, Wash., U.S.A.

Mr. Henry Strangways was formerly a student member.

The following drafts have been returned (wrong address): Frank M. Perry, 27 Walmer Road, Toronto, Ont.; Chas. H. Hayes, 114 Bay St., Toronto, Ont.; B. B. Harlan, 9 King St. West, Toronto, Ont.; W. K. McNeill, Toronto, Ont. (address insufficient); R. J. Gaskin, Kingston (left there, said to be in Toronto). The Secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute will deem it a favor if the above named members will forward their present addresses to him. His address is Room 3, Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

To show how great may be the generation of static electricity in German factories, Prof. M. M. Richter has drawn sparks an inch to an inch and a half long from a 5-inch belt on a wheel making 10,000 revolutions a minute. The risk of explosion in dust or gases seems to have been overlooked. Coating with bronze or aluminum powder prevented static charges, while a weekly application of acid-free glycerine was a remedy and added durability to the leather.

When such substances as glass or porcelain cannot be used for acid-proof apparatus, platinum has been the one material available, but for many purposes this is too costly. As a substitute, M. Jouve, a French engineer, has announced a series of alloys which he calls, "metillures." These are silicides of iron and manganese, with a large percentage of silicon, and they are so resistant to strong acids, hot or cold, that they have been employed in distilling nitric acid and in concentrating sulphuric acid.