

### THE CROWN RESERVE REPORT.

With a total output of nearly ten million ounces of silver to its credit, the Crown Reserve mine of Cobalt has had a singularly prosperous career. During the last calendar year the mine output was 3,248,196 ounces, worth \$1,757,821.27.

An analysis of the cost of silver per ounce is particularly interesting. The items of freight, treatment, smelter charges, and marketing, aggregate 3.89 cents per ounce. Head office expenses, depreciation, and insurance amount to 1.52 cents. Mining, development, ore handling and all other expenses total 6.56 cents. Thus the grand total cost per ounce of silver is 11.97 cents. Over the year the net profit per ounce was 42.13 cents, a total mine profit of \$1,368,123.79. This amount, as is pointed out in the report, is equivalent to 77.34 per cent. of the value of the dividend paying stock.

The high-grade ore contained on the average 3,611 ounces per ton; the low-grade 103.5 ounces. The average of the two was 1,148.2 ounces, or \$621.18.

Whilst the ore reserves are not estimated, enough general information is included to point to satisfactory conditions in the mine. Possibly it is the path of wisdom to omit close estimates; but the gap is one that demands some explanation.

It is evident that the mine will depend to a larger degree in the future upon low-grade ore. The large-milling dump is being added to at the rate of 50 tons per day, mostly ore that contains about 20 ounces of silver. But the diminution in output of high-grade will be slow, if we may judge by the past.

Incidentally, the record of the Carson vein at the 100-foot and 200-foot levels is astonishing. About 6-840,000 ounces have been mined from this vein since it was opened.

The probable erection of a mill, or the placing of a milling contract with a customs concentrator, is foreshadowed in the general manager's concluding remarks.

### CHANGES IN QUEBEC MINING LAWS.

Two amendments to the Quebec Mining Law are being introduced. The first of these provides that mining lands for which letters patent have been issued are sold after July, 1911, they will remain subject to a tax of ten cents an acre when they are not being worked. This corresponds to the British Columbia tax of 25 cents on unworked Crown-granted claims. It will enable the Crown to take possession anew of abandoned mining claims the owners of which are not to be found.

More important is the second amendment. This provides for a reduction of the yearly rental on mining claims under mining licenses. The present rate of \$1 per acre is to be reduced to 50 cents. A qualifying clause demands 25 days' work during the first six months, and the same amount each successive year, dat-

ing from the expiry of the first six months.

Both amendments are sound. Both could be made more stringent without doing any harm to the industry. For instance we do not consider excessive a tax of one dollar an acre on unworked claims. Neither would 50 days' work annually be oppressive.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The annual report of the Trethewey Silver-Cobalt Mine, Limited, appears just as we are going to press. We note that the net revenue for 1910 is \$237,800.42 an increase of \$37,992.78 over 1909. Of high-grade ore there were 155 tons produced, the average silver content ranging from 2,096 ounces per ton to 3,070 ounces. Low-grade ore to the amount of 164 tons was produced. The silver tenor of this material was 168 ounces per ton. High-grade concentrates, of which 254 tons were put out, carried an average of 1,630 ounces per ton. The average mill extraction was 86 per cent. on ore carrying 27 ounces per ton, a fine record for a new mill.

It is a remarkable fact, one that should have commercial significance, that throughout the gold mining regions of Nova Scotia, there is not a district wherein sufficient available water power does not exist to operate adequate mining work. This condition has been very largely overlooked.

### OBITUARY.

George C. Tunstall died recently at Kamloops, British Columbia, after a residence in that Canadian Province of nearly half a century. He has born in New Jersey on December 5, 1836, and was educated at Sparkman's Academy, Sorel, and Lower Canada College, Montreal. When but 25 years of age he travelled west across the Canadian prairies, in company with others, now well known and honoured pioneers, arriving in British Columbia in 1862. In 1863 he proceeded to Cariboo, where for a number of years he was engaged in placer mining. In 1879 he was appointed Provincial Government agent at Kamloops, Yale district, and in 1885 received the appointment of Gold Commissioner for Granite Creek, Similkameen, where a discovery that year of coarse gold resulted in the biggest rush that district has ever seen. Five years later—in 1890—Mr. Tunstall was removed to West Kootenay district, with headquarters at Revelstoke, on the Columbia River. Subsequently he was retransferred to Kamloops, where, until 1909, he was Gold Commissioner for the northeastern portion of Yale district. Since his retirement from office his precarious health necessitated his seeking relief in change of climate, and it was only about a fortnight before his death that he returned from California. Although in his 75th year, the news of his death came as a shock to many of the friends his sterling good qualities and genial disposition had won for him during his long residence in the Kamloops district.