

## THE CANADIAN MINERAL EXHIBIT AT PARIS.

### ITS SUCCESSES AND HOW THEY WERE ATTAINED.

(By Angus K. Stuart.)

Of the many millions of people who have now seen the great exhibition here a very large percentage have visited the Canadian pavilion and the various sections where Canadian products are displayed and, now that the awards have all been made and the enormous fair is drawing to a close, it is quite possible to form an idea as to whether the Canadian exhibition has, or has not been a success.

Perhaps, however, it would be hardly fair to judge the success of the exhibition or any part of it solely by the numbers which have visited it; in any case it would be more reasonable to try to find out whether it has been productive of satisfactory results—*i.e.*, the advertising of Canada as a rich and prosperous country, and whether the opportunity afforded here to accomplish this end has been utilized to the best advantage.

On these matters any one can form an equally good judgment as myself—all I can do is to confine myself to what I have had time to see and learn since my stay here, hoping that any experience gained may eventually, through the medium of your valuable publication, be of some use to the province from which I hail. Doubtless from the daily press you will have been notified of many of the successes gained by Canada here. You will also perhaps have read criticisms as to the management of certain details connected with the arrangement and display of our exhibits. All this it is not my business nor office to comment on. What I hope to convey is an accurate idea of the Canadian mineral exhibit as it is, the successes it has quite undoubtedly obtained, the cause of these successes and what practical benefits to the Canadian mining industry may be expected to result from all the trouble, time, money and skill employed in getting this collection in place for the inspection of the public of all nations.

Perhaps before going any further it would be well to explain the origin (if such a term may be used) of the exhibit. This would be scarcely necessary if some misunderstanding did not seem to exist as to some things connected therewith—but as such appears to prevail a few words of explanation can scarcely be much out of place. The exhibit as a whole was like any other section of the Canadian exhibit here, arranged for, collected, transported and placed here under the management of the Canadian Commission. One of the commissioners, Dr. G. M. Dawson, C.M.G., director of the Geological Survey of Ottawa, very naturally had the control of this. To the very thorough way in which this work was carried on,—to the scientific manner in which the whole collection was handled—may undoubtedly be attributed the name it has acquired here of being the most attractive and at the same time the most elaboratively scientific display of mineral products to be seen in the exhibition grounds. The Canadian Geological Survey Department is perhaps not quite appreciated as it should be in Canada and especially out West, being an institution which, like Bobs, “does not advertise,” but its work seems to be thoroughly well known to scientific and technical people on the Continent, and if possible its reputation has been still more enhanced by the way this mineral

exhibit has been got together, by the able representatives it has sent here in Messrs. E. R. Faribault and A. P. Low, and the publications of both a theoretical and practical kind which it got out specially for distribution here. Great credit is also due to the mining bureaus of the various provinces, especially those of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia and to the many private individuals who assisted in collecting the exhibits. As such a very large number of the latter come from British Columbia and as the British Columbia exhibit is specially representative too much credit cannot possibly be given to Mr. W. F. Robertson, your provincial mineralogist, who took such enormous pains to ensure the province being thoroughly represented. He will doubtless be glad to know that it is due very largely to his individual efforts that Canada has had so many successes.

To return to the exhibit. The whole exhibit is a collective one of the economical minerals of Canada, no attempt being made to advertise any of the provinces separately. The work of handling it after it left Ottawa, *i. e.*, the placing and arranging here was entrusted to Mr. E. R. Faribault of the Geological Survey, and Mr. W. C. Willimott, assistant curator of the same department. Mr. Faribault being not only a scientist but also equally proficient in French and English, his linguistic capabilities were of the greatest assistance, practically invaluable in fact, especially in aiding the work of the International Jury. Mr. Willimott had a very large and varied experience in handling exhibits of this kind. At the end of June Mr. Faribault was replaced by Mr. A. P. Low, of the Geological Survey, (the well-known explorer of Labrador) and I was allowed to take Mr. Willimott's place. Under Mr. Low's supervision the greater part of the exhibit was re-arranged in order to make it more conformable with the catalogue, a sample copy of which had been received from Ottawa. This work occupied several weeks, and included re-labeling almost every exhibit. The net result of all this work is that the exhibit has gained the name of being the best arranged and classified in the entire exhibition—and is consequently immensely interesting to technical people who visit it in great numbers every day.

The collection of economic minerals displayed in the Canadian pavilion is arranged in natural groups and series as follows:—

1. Metals and their ores.
2. Materials used in the production of light and heat.
3. Minerals applicable to Chemical manufactures—and mineral fertilizers.
4. Mineral pigments.
5. Salt and Brines.
6. Refractory materials and materials applicable to the manufacture of china, etc.
7. Materials for grinding and polishing.
8. Minerals applicable to fine arts and jewelry.
9. Materials applicable to common and decorative construction.

As to the arrangement of the exhibits in the courts it will be easily seen from the photographs sent that all the smaller specimens are placed in glass cases and the larger blocks of ore on open pyramids. Various special exhibits are scattered here and there and the whole of the window spaces are covered with photographs and transparencies illustrative of various mining industries of the Dominion—while geological