

up two seams of coal near Banff, and is now seeking markets for its anthracite east as far as Winnipeg and west to the cities of the Pacific Coast. For some time similar coal was obtained at Anthracite, situated five miles east of Banff, and at Canmore, ten miles farther east, something like \$1,000,000 having been invested in developing and equipping the anthracite mines at those places. But Bankhead, as the new colliery has been named, promises to be far more important than either of the other places, for at it a dozen seams of coal have been located and much money has been spent in development and equipment of the mines there. Between anthracite from Bankhead and that from Comox there should not be any lack of excellent hard coal for the use of consumers in our coast cities and districts.

It has been officially reported that the joint committee of Canadian and United States geologists, appointed for the purpose of endeavouring to arrange for a common classification and nomenclature of rock formations, so as to secure as far as practicable, uniformity in this connection in information given in publications issued by the Geological Surveys of Canada and the United States, respectively, has reached an agreement on many points on which the official geologists of the two countries were not previously in accord. The party, consisting of seven eminent geologists, made a tour through parts of Ontario and Minnesota along the International Boundary line and during their travels the main purpose of their coming together was carried to a successful issue. If the result of this joint work and mutual agreement be that the Geological Surveys of the two countries in future adopt similar methods and terms in classifying and naming rocks, chances of confusion will be lessened and geological reports will be more intelligible, at any rate to laymen, who are easily misled by variations in descriptions and names, even though geologists may recognise that the language and terms used are really synonymous.

The mica mines of Ontario which until quite recently were worked in the most desultory and haphazard fashion, are now by improved methods of operation beginning to make relatively large annual yields, in fact the mines of Ontario and Quebec are now regarded as perhaps the chief sources of mica supply on the continent. The demand for mica is steadily increasing, its utilization in the manufacture of electrical apparatus being alone very considerable. In Ontario the mica is merely "rough cobbled" as it is taken from the pits, then shipped to trimming works, where it is graded, split and cut for the market. By the increasing manufacture of "micanite" however, by which small and irregular pieces of mica are converted by means of a shellac cement into boards of any requisite dimension and thickness, the disproportion between the value of the larger sheets of mica and smaller sizes is no longer a factor and consequently deposits can now be worked to greater advantage and with less waste. With the proposed

transportation facilities provided there is no reason why the mica deposits in the Big Bend and Tete Jaune Cache districts of British Columbia should not ere long be worked with results equally as satisfactory as those which have attended operations in Ontario, and we trust next year to be able to record the circumstance that a start in this direction has been made.

A correspondent writing to the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of Aug. 18, states that in mining for gold he encountered a deposit of black magnetic sand, which contained a grayish mineral, locally pronounced to be platinum, and asks for information as to methods to be adopted for concentrating the material, to which enquiry our contemporary replies that: Unless the mineral is present in minute grains, it can be determined with approximate certainty as to whether or not it is platinum. The lighter material or silicates, if present, can be removed from the sand by the usual methods of washing, and then the black magnetic mineral can be separated by a magnet. In the concentrate there should remain gold, platinum and other heavy metals of the platinum group. If the gray metal is malleable, but insoluble in ordinary acids—hydrochloric, nitric or sulphuric—it is almost certain to be one of the platinum metals. For concentrating the sand, some form of the magnetic separator of which there are several types of these machines on the market, should be used.

In a more recent issue of the *Journal* Mr. A. Stanley Elmore writing on the subject remarks that trials have been carried out by means of the Elmore process of oil concentration on magnetic sands carrying gold and platinum values, "which are very difficult to recover by any other process, and which get amenable to treatment by the oil concentration method." In view of the occurrences of black sands in the Similkameen, Cariboo and Cassiar districts, which have been found to contain values in platinum and osmiridium, this information should prove of interest to many of our readers.

A determined effort is being made in certain directions to influence shareholders in the Le Roi Mining Company to bring pressure to bear upon the management to abandon its present custom of having the Le Roi ore treated at the company's own smelting works at Northport, Washington, and to secure the erection of concentrating works for the Le Roi at the mine instead of having them placed, as it is stated is contemplated, on a site near the International Boundary line and distant about a dozen miles from Rossland and the mine. The ostensible reasons for this agitation are that Le Roi ore can be treated at less cost in the province, and that if the concentrator be built at the mine there will not only be no freight to pay on the considerable bulk of the ore that will be discharged by the concentrator direct to the waste dump, but the company will have the advantage of competitive railway rates on its concentrates when dealing with the question of whence to ship them for