

with Dr. Miller's estimate of "tonnage and possible tonnage" published in the First Annual Report, which places the total productive capacity of veins then known at 12,871,750 ounces? Indeed, the more we examine the published statements of La Rose Consolidated, the less we find to enlighten us. But it is surely unfair to expect us to accept bald statements of reserves with absolutely no physical data.

It is not our belief that La Rose is to be a fiasco. A competent general manager, strong enough to resist market influences, and backed by the majority of his directors, will undoubtedly pull the fat out of the fire. We hope that La Rose possesses both the proper manager and the proper directorate. We do not *know* that this is the case. Knowledge will come soon enough.

LIBRARY MEMORIAL TO HUGH FLETCHER.

The Mining Society of Nova Scotia has decided to raise four thousand five hundred dollars for the purpose of establishing a Memorial Library in honour of the late Hugh Fletcher. The library will consist entirely of books on geological and mining subjects. The Provincial Government is to be asked for permission to place the library in the new Technical College building.

British business enterprise is in nothing more evident than in the shipments of coal to Europe. Austria, for instance, is largely supplied by Great Britain. Trieste, on the Adriatic coast, is an important industrial centre and distributing point. To this city Great Britain shipped 804,000 tons of sea-borne coal during 1908. More than half of this quantity came from Northumberland, the remainder from South Wales and Scotland. Entries of Austro-Hungarian coal amounted only to 73,000 tons.

RADIUM.

A significant event was the laying of the foundation stone of a large radium reduction works at Limehouse, England. The ceremony took place on October 16. Lady Ramsay, the wife of the renowned scientist, Sir William Ramsay, laid the stone.

This new enterprise, launched under the name of the British Radium Corporation, is the outcome of a combination of interesting and peculiar circumstances.

Associated with the British Radium Corporation is the St. Ives Consolidated Mines, Ltd., which controls an important group of tin mines in Cornwall. Among these tin mines is the Trenwith, which, in former years, was a copper producer. Early in the last century, so run the records, pitchblende was found in quantity. This mineral the miners mistook for black copper. On account of this delusion there was serious friction with the smelters. But the difficulty was cleared in 1843, when Professor Henwood identified the mineral rightly as pitchblende. After that this valuable ore of radium and uranium was considered a waste product.

The British Radium Corporation was organized to treat this neglected ore. The process to be used was devised by Sir William Ramsay. The method now in use on the Continent occupies at least twelve months. By Sir William's process a great saving of time will be effected. The whole treatment of the pitchblende will not occupy more than seven weeks.

The efficacy of radium as a cure for certain diseases, including cancer, is one of the beneficent discoveries of modern science. Sir William in his speech on this occasion alludes to the desirability of supplying the British Empire before allowing any of the precious element to be purchased abroad. Neither Austria nor Germany permits radium to be exported. Their example, according to Sir William, should be followed.

CANADA'S ARCTIC DOMAIN.

History, written and unwritten, accentuates one fact. The nation that lays claim to territory must occupy that territory. The incidents of the Alaskan award, and of the adjustment of the International Boundary between Canada and the United States lend force to this. Skagway should never have been turned over to our neighbours; nor need it have been had Canada been early alive to her own interests.

In a recent newspaper interview, Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, who may be justly termed our leading authority on the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of the Dominion, expressed his belief that the northern shore of the Dominion and the Arctic islands lying between the mouth of the Mackenzie River and the north-west extremity of Hudson Bay should be thoroughly explored. At present Canada has no substantial title to these lands. A vague suzerainty, based upon geographical considerations, constitutes our only hold upon territory that may be of immense value.

Mr. Tyrrell urges that the Dominion Government regularly appropriate a few thousands of dollars to equip an expedition to investigate the natural resources of these northern lands. This form of occupation has international value. It also may bring to light mineral deposits of great commercial importance.

Alaska, once looked upon as a white elephant, has returned a hundred times over the few millions paid for it by the United States, and its development has scarcely begun.

Disregarding altogether the sentimental aspects of the case, the exploitation of the Dominion's northern fringe is a practical duty that our Government must no longer neglect.

CONCRETE IN METAL MINING.

Not only is concrete growing in favour as a substitute for timber in metal-mining, but the advantages of using it in sinking shafts in wet ground and in keeping water out of underground workings are rapidly being