

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXX.

TORONTO, May 1, 1909

No. 9

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada

Published fortnightly by the

MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office . . . Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Branch Offices Montreal, Halifax, Victoria, and London, Eng.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for the issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

CIRCULATION.

During the year ending with March 1st, 1908, 91,750 copies of "The Canadian Mining Journal" were printed and distributed, an average of 3,822 per issue.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post-office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

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AN ENGLISH ENGINEER'S ADVICE.

Under date of January 11th, 1909, Mr. William Frecheville, whose name is familiar to all Canadian mining men, wrote a letter of thanks to the Secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute. Summing up the impressions that he received during last summer's excursion, Mr. Frecheville emphasizes his opinion that large expansion is in store for the Canadian mining industry, both in established enterprises and in new fields.

To account for the small participation of English capital in Canadian mining, Mr. Frecheville cites the following reasons:—"Firstly, the results obtained by enterprises launched in England to work mines in Canada have not, as a rule, been encouraging. Secondly, the distance from the Canadian and American centres of capital to the Canadian mines is so much less than the distance from England, that the enterprising and alert Canadian or American gets there before the man from over the water has even a look in."

It would have brought out the truth more fully had Mr. Frecheville added that "the enterprising and alert Canadian or American" is not to be blamed for the undoubted lack of success on the part of English investors. English investments have been unsuccessful mainly because they have been blunderingly conducted. Instance after instance has occurred where capitalists from the Motherland have proved easy victims for promoters discredited in Canada. Time and again good British guineas have been squandered by a wasteful and incompetent management. Neither Canada nor Canadians can be blamed for this. The English investor needs, above all else, experienced and responsible mining engineers to guide him; men, indeed, of Mr. Frecheville's class.

"As matters now stand," concludes Mr. Frecheville, "the best procedure for English capitalists who contemplate interesting themselves in mines in Canada, would seem to be to have a resident agent there, who would keep them in touch with what is going on, . . . otherwise I am afraid that history will repeat itself, and what is brought over to London will by no means be 'the pick of the basket.'" Continuing, he recommends that only prospects that are at least promisingly developed, or mines already proved payable, be brought to the attention of London capitalists.

The general tone of Mr. Frecheville's letter is distinctly appreciative of Canadian mining. His good opinion counts for not a little, and his advice, simply and directly expressed, is worth more than pages of superlatives.