

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXI.

TORONTO, April 15, 1910

No. 8

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.

Editor:
J. C. MURRAY, B.A., B.Sc.

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.

"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."

CONTENTS.

Editorials	225
(a) The Ontario Public School Text-Books	225
(b) The Springhill Situation	226
(c) A Protest from Cobalt	226
(d) The Davis Handbook of the Cobalt Silver District	227
(e) Editorial Notes	227
Notes on Portland Canal Mining District, B.C. by Wm. W. Rush	228
Canadian Iron and Steel. By Watson Griffin	231
The Use of Coke-Oven Gas as Fuel	234
Mining and Smelting Conditions in British Columbia	236
Our London Letter	240
Statement by Temiskaming Mine Managers' Association	241
Canadian Mining Institute	242
Personal and General	242
Working Cost Production	242
The Fixation of Atmospheric Nitrogen and the Food Supply. Leo Frank Guttman	243
New Mine Telephones	245
Correspondence	246
Special Correspondence	247
General Mining News	249
Mining News of the World	250
Company Notes	252
Statistics and Returns	255

THE ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS.

A small storm is raging in Ontario educational circles. Our readers will remember that eight months ago we alluded editorially to the fact that "the new Ontario Readers, excellent though they be in many regards, still conform to the outworn and artificial standards of thirty years ago. While they are probably the best school books that we have yet seen, still they fall very far short of what they should and could be." In general our editorial dwelt upon the evident paucity of descriptive and informational matter pertaining to Canada. We emphasized particularly the absence of any allusion to the industrial life of this country, and pointed out that the books contained not one reading concerning such an important industry as mining.

These animadversions the compilers answered by claiming that the school books were intended to be "inspirational" and not "informational." In this argument we can see little sense. Children derive inspiration of the proper kind from information interestingly presented. Canadian children should know something about Canada, about our forests, mines, farms, and industries. And knowledge of these things need not be acquired through pages of statistics, nor through dry didactic dissertation. In the discovery and exploitation of our mining regions, for instance, there has been developed much true romance. What could be more "inspirational" than the story of Silver Islet, or of the early labours of Canadian geologists, or the thousand and one incidents of pioneer life connected with the history of mining all over Canada! Surely it is well for the Canadian child to learn something of what Canadian citizenship means. The one crying need that faces our nation to-day is the evolution of a new brand of Canadianism. It strikes us as being rather piffing to prescribe large doses of conventional and hackneyed literature to "inspire" the rising generation.

We notice that the teachers of Ontario have given expression to their disapproval of the new books. They, and other critics, have not been answered by the Department of Education. The sole (and quite inadequate) response has come in the shape of a characteristic explosion from the impetuous Sir James Whitney. In the absence, through illness, of the Hon. Dr. Pyne, Sir James occupied the position of Minister of Education. When asked for his opinion concerning the aspersions cast upon the new books, Sir James erected himself into a volcano. This, while interesting, is not instructive. Neither is it inspiring. Vesuvius and other established centres of volcanic activity can do the trick far better.

Meanwhile we shall reiterate our former opinion to the effect that there will always be something lacking in