

The Halifax Chronicle makes a strong plea for the assistance of the Federal Department of Mines in giving adequate publicity to the extent and importance of the maritime gypsum deposits. We take it that this is a reasonable and seasonable request. The first duty of the Department of Mines is to give its services to those branches of the mineral industry that most need it and that, in the opinion of those competent to judge, will give a suitable return for effort expended.

Examination of statistics leaves no room for doubt as to the assured future of the maritime gypsum industry. The enormous known deposits in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the exceptional facilities for mining transportation, and marketing, provide ample foundations for large expansion.

INDUSTRIAL.

We commend to the attention of our readers the matter published in the "Industrial Section" of the "Canadian Mining Journal." From our advertisers and other manufacturing concerns, we receive from time to time illustrated descriptions of new and improved types of machinery. Whilst all of this material is frankly submitted for direct and indirect advertising purposes, there is often highly valuable technical information included.

All such special articles, when of sufficient interest to merit publication, will be grouped in our "Industrial Section." The sources drawn upon are not confined to those firms whose names appear on our advertising pages. Whilst, naturally, these contribute matter most regularly, yet notices and special descriptions reach us from many other manufacturing concerns. These we use as opportunity offers.

The central idea of such a department in the Journal is the segregation of anything that smacks of advertising. The pages used are never, under any consideration, sold as advertising space. But the open distinction signified by the title "Industrial Section" marks them as being in a class by themselves and gives us the opportunity of using excellent material without the danger of lowering the general tone of the Journal.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The smallest province of the Dominion does not appear in the list of mineral producing countries. It is rich agriculturally, and its shore fisheries are not inconsiderable. But there are no mining activities throughout the length and breadth of the fertile island.

But now, after due weighing of geologic evidence, the Dominion Government has decided that Prince Edward Island is a fair field for prospecting. Therefore the strata that underlie the tight little province are to be explored in the hope of finding coal.

The Island's situation geographically might justify the use of the word "expectation" instead of "hope."

EDITORIAL NOTE.

The Russian Government is contemplating a new State monopoly in platinum. Russia produces about seven tons of the metal annually. Most of this amount is exported to the United States and Germany. The effect of a considerable increase in price would have a serious effect upon the electrical industries. The search for platinum in Canada should be encouraged.

THE MINING OPERATIONS OF THE DOMINION COAL COMPANY.

BY F. W. GRAY.

Article II.—The Mines of the Glace Bay Basin. (continued)

Reserve Colliery (No. 5 Colliery, Phalen Seam).—Reserve Colliery obtained its distinctive name from the fact that it was originally opened to work a concession reserved by the Provincial Government for the purpose of encouraging the building of a railway from Sydney to tap the mines of the Glace Bay Basin. This work was undertaken by the Glasgow & Cape Breton Coal & Railway Company, who were afterwards reorganized as the Sydney & Louisburg Coal & Railway Company, under which company Reserve mine was worked until it was absorbed into the Dominion Coal Company's properties.

The first shipments from Reserve are recorded in 1872, when the mine produced 27,802 tons, followed by

a production of 63,300 in 1873. During 1874 to 1877 the conditions of the coal trade were so bad that operations were practically suspended. From 1878 to the present time, however, Reserve mine has been a consistent and steady producer. Since the opening of the mine in 1872 about 9,500,000 tons have been produced, of which amount 8,000,000, or 84 per cent. of the aggregate, has been mined under the direction of the Dominion Coal Company since 1893.

The coalfield has been worked through three main haulages, namely, the French Slope, Main Slope and East Slope, all of which proceed from the outcrop of the Phalen Seam. The Main Slope was closed at the end of 1894, its territory being exhausted. The East Slope rope will shortly be taken off, when the haulage will be limited to the French Slope. This slope is 12-