

burg reserves to the amount of 13,400 tons were reported. These amounts, aggregating 100,695 tons, constituted the bulk of available copper on hand.

At present, visible stocks are decreasing in the United States on account of the large exports to Europe. The current prices for electrolytic and lake hover round 16.50 and 16.60, as against about 12.40 cents in June, 1911. These are most favourable symptoms. It is also significant that exceedingly few new copper enterprises are being started. This leads to the hope that over-production will not for some time be a factor in depressing the market.

DOMINION HOLIDAYS.

In comparison with the incidence of holidays in Britain and other parts of the Empire, the arrangement of the statutory holidays of the Dominion could not well be bettered. In Great Britain the people's holidays are, with one exception, relics of saint's days and holy days, and their occurrence is erratic, taking no note of the weather or the seasons. The great church feasts of Easter and Whitsuntide are notable holidays in Great Britain, but sometimes they occur at a time of the year quite unsuitable for outdoor holiday making. From Whitsuntide to Christmas there is but one holiday, namely the first Monday in every August, sometimes known as St. Lubbock's day, in memory of the scientist whose efforts created it. Canadian holidays, in comparison, are well arranged—Christmas, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Thanksgiving Day, are all well recognized and suitable holidays. There seems to be considerable misunderstanding and ambiguity in the public mind with reference to the observance of June 3rd, the King's Birthday, and employers of labour object with justice to the observance of three holidays so close together as May 24th, June 3rd, and July 1st, at the busiest time of the whole year. Victoria Day, originally established in memory of the greatest Queen who ever sat upon the throne of the Empire, the first Queen-Empress, has become an established part of the life of Canada. It is to-day associated with Empire Day, with the imperial idea. By all means let its observance be perpetuated and strengthened, so that round it may grow all the associations so dear to the Briton, be he from the homeland or from over the seas. But the attempt to make a regular public holiday of the King's birthday is a mistake, and will result in blurring the great memories bound up with Victoria Day, and but a half-hearted observance of the King's Birthday, which in the natural course of mortal events, will some other day yield place to the natal day of another King. In Great Britain, the observance of the King's Birthday, means merely the closing of the Law Courts, the trooping of the colours, and other purely formal observances connected with the King's position as the head of the Army and

Navy, and the embodiment of the supreme power of the realm. It would be a thousand pities to disturb the present most admirable arrangement of Canadian holidays—May 24th, the feast of our Imperial associations, July 1st, the natal feast of our national entity, and Thanksgiving Day, the very name of which signifies its own intent.

THE PROSPECTOR AND THE MINING LAW.

This is to be no dissertation upon a threadbare subject. Our intention is only to give expression to our wrathful surprise at an article published in *The Mining and Scientific Press*, May 18. Phenomenally misinformed as is the writer, Mr. T. F. F. Van Wagenen, it is still more a matter of astonishment that our admirable contemporary should give tacit assent to his statements.

In pleading for the retention of the outworn apex law, with its mischievous extralateral rights, Mr. Van Wagenen is responsible for the following: "In the Western United States and in Alaska, where the American law applies, there are thousands of prospectors in the field continuously. . . . But when the international boundaries are reached in either direction, where the American law gives place to that of Mexican or Canadian, they stop, as if at a dead line." After asserting that in five years he met not one prospector in Mexico, the writer continues. "British America may be searched from Labrador to the Pacific with little better results. There was a time when the province of British Columbia had an apex law, and while it was in force the rugged region hummed with explorers. When it was repealed they faded away like snow before a chinook."

Just how large a sprinkling of explorers and prospectors it takes to create a hum in a rugged region it is not for us to say. But to anyone who has even a superficial acquaintance with Canadian mining affairs it is apparent, beyond argument, that prospecting was never so vigorously carried on as at the present time. Northern Ontario is being traversed by the pioneer prospector as never before. Witness, for instance, the recent rush to Whisky Lake. Witness also widening circles of territory being examined in the regions centering in Porcupine and Larder Lake. And, as clearly controverting Mr. Van Wagenen's sweeping statements, consider the fact that some nine or ten parties have this spring started for Hudson Bay and one for Baffin's Land. The northern and eastern portions of Quebec are being more actively prospected than at any other time in our history. Prospecting parties in search of coal are numerous in Northern Alberta. In British Columbia, although there is no rush, the search for mineral deposits goes on merrily.

The prospector may have stopped humming, but he is still with us. In fact, prospecting is one of the salient