

ganization that can be utilized for the purpose, canvass its members for an expression of opinion. To this end it will be necessary that a draft of the representations be printed and circulated. The membership of the Institute is abundantly comprehensive. A plebiscite of this kind will be instructive and impressive. To the argument that such a step might be bad politics, we would reply that there is not the slightest need of considering political expediency as it is self-evident that the mining industry gets little consideration from the politician.

In closing, we may remark that the present Dominion Government is obviously ignorant of the needs of the industry that we have the honour to represent. If it is not ignorant, then the only conclusion is that it does not care—a painful and pregnant conclusion.

THE OTTAWA LABORATORY

On another page we reproduce a list of the mechanical equipment installed in the new ore testing laboratory of the Dominion Mines Branch at Ottawa. The official designation of the laboratory is the Dominion of Canada Ore Dressing and Metallurgical Laboratory. The object of this establishment is to supply to the mining public of Canada a means whereby large lots of ore can be efficiently tested.

The equipment appears to be well chosen and complete. One of the chief items is a 5-stamp battery. The cyanide testing outfit, although of laboratory size, is capable of handling sufficiently large samples. The minimum limit for small scale tests is placed at 200 pounds, for large scale tests the samples must be at least five tons.

The Mines Branch reserves the right to publish the results of all tests.

While at several of our universities there are ore testing establishments, no private individual has yet organized one in Canada. There are, it is true, several customs mills and one large shipment sampling plant in Canada, but these handle silver ores only.

While we are entirely in sympathy with the movement, it must be pointed out that extreme care should be taken not to overlap or compete with the work of the private assayer. It must also be remarked that there is danger of the official Government report being misused. Unfair sampling may easily lead to complications, and be made the basis of raising money for mining schemes.

Moreover, there is room for much difference of opinion as to the relative value of large scale and small scale tests. It does not follow that because five tons or twenty tons have been milled, the results are more accurate than those obtained from careful sampling on a small scale. Naturally, much can be learned by means of the larger tests as to treatment. But it must

always be borne in mind that mechanical considerations make the control of any given sample shipment a matter of extreme difficulty, whereas the small laboratory sample can, with proper care, be depended upon for accurate results.

We repeat, therefore, that whilst we wish the new enterprise all success, we think it most necessary that every pains be taken not to interfere with private assayers.

THE NIPISSING REPORT

According to the eighth annual report of the Nipissing Mines Company, just issued, the operations during the calendar year 1912 were highly satisfactory. Dividends to the amount of \$1,800,000 were distributed, the sum of \$240,000 was added to the surplus, and the ore reserves were increased by 1,750,000 ounces. In addition, the new "low grade" mill, costing \$325,000, was paid for out of earnings.

The total silver produced was 4,688,260.79 ounces, having a gross value of \$2,896,990.10, and costing altogether \$815,279.95, or 17.39 cents per ounce. General operating expenses accounted for 12.08 cents per ounce, high grade milling for 2.12 cents, low grade milling for 0.66 cent, and depreciation for 1.12 cents. The average price received for the silver was 61.457 cents per ounce.

Nipissing, up to the end of last year, had paid \$10,168,297.25 in dividends. Of this magnificent total more than 70 per cent. was distributed in the last four years. On account of the large territory to be prospected, the exploration charges are high, and will probably remain so for some years to come. Of drifting, crosscutting, raising, and sinking, a total footage of 13,020 feet was covered during the year, and 15,764 cubic feet stoped. During the summer, 33.2 acres of ground were hydraulicked, an expeditious and efficient means of prospecting, far more satisfactory than the costly trench. Although most of this territory had been trenched before, numerous small veins and stringers were discovered.

With ore reserves carrying a total of nearly ten millions ounces, with a surplus of \$1,443,953.09, and with an admirably complete plant, Nipissing is in an enviable position.

EDITORIAL NOTES

International Geological Congress preparations are going forward smoothly. We may venture to suggest that thoroughly organized newspaper publicity should not be neglected.

Gold mining in Nova Scotia, quiescent as it may seem, is not yet dead. Four properties are being examined by American engineers at present, and there are other symptoms of activity.