

A SCHOOL FOR MINERS

A few years ago there was established in the Marquette iron mining district of Michigan a school to increase the efficiency of the employees of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. This new departure was watched with considerable interest and there was no little difference of opinion as to how the miners would receive it. Very satisfactory results have, however, been obtained and in a paper presented at the September meeting of the Lake Superior Mining Institute, and reprinted in this issue of the Journal, Mr. C. S. Stevenson says: "On June 1st, 1915, the work of the first class, comprising 33 men, was completed, and it can be stated definitely that for the greater period of their course the men manifested a higher degree of open-mindedness and enthusiasm than is usual in high schools and universities."

The results obtained are very complimentary to those who originated the idea and developed the courses of study. One feature which doubtless appealed to most of the men was the decision of the company to choose its shift bosses from the ranks of the school. Another feature which proved successful was the fixing of attention on one subject and continuing the instruction of that subject alone instead of teaching several subjects at one time. An interesting diversion from the routine of school instruction was provided by informal discussions on topics intimately connected with the miners' work.

The school, it should be pointed out, is not, and was not intended to be, a primary school for miners who do not understand English. It is a school for the more ambitious among the English-speaking miners.

Apparently Mr. W. R. Ingalls has not much confidence in hydrometallurgical methods for the treatment of zinc ores. In a very interesting paper presented before the International Engineering Congress in San Francisco, and published in the October 2nd issue of "Mining Press," Mr. Ingalls traces the important steps in the improvement in methods of treating zinc ores. The introduction of Wilfley tables for concentrated mixed ores, Wetherill's system of magnetic separation, Blake's system of electrostatic separation, and the flotation process as used at Broken Hill, mark some of the greatest advances. Hydrometallurgical methods, while considered commercial possibilities are said to have failed to come into extensive use simply because most ores can be treated more profitably in other ways. Mr. Ingalls remarks, however, that while "the precipitation of zinc from solutions by electrolysis used to be troublesome and unsatisfactory, that seems to have been mastered."

It seems likely that control of the Jupiter mine at Porcupine will soon be taken over by the McIntyre Mining Company. The Jupiter is a promising mine, but has not yet had a chance to become a regular producer. Its addition to the list of operating properties will be another important step in the development of the Porcupine gold district.

The Department of Mines has issued a report by Albert O. Hayes on the Wabana Iron Ore of Newfoundland. The paper is a presentation of a detailed study of the petrology and chemistry of the iron ore. As the Wabana deposits are the source of the iron ore produced by the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., they are of almost as much interest to Canadians as to Newfoundlanders. Mr. Hayes' work is illustrated by photos showing the oolitic character of the ore.

British subjects in the Clifton-Morenci copper mining district have appealed to the British consul for protection, and the consul has asked Governor Hunt, of Arizona, to provide it. Federal and State authorities have so far failed to send troops for the protection of lives and property in the strike district, and the British subjects are apparently unwilling to submit to Moyer rule. We don't wonder at it.

The iron industry of the United States is now experiencing one of the best periods in its history. A year ago there was considerable pessimism as to the outlook and in December, 1914, pig iron production fell to 1,495,346 tons. Every month of 1915 has registered an increase in production and September broke all records with a production of 2,834,342 tons. The improvement is a wonderful one.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The new University of British Columbia commenced its educational work in Vancouver, B. C., on October 1st. Two new temporary buildings have been completed for the departments of Geology and Mineralogy, and alterations have been made in the building formerly used by McGill College for the use of the Science department devoted to Physics and Chemistry. The library, administration offices and lecture rooms will be in another new building. These arrangements are temporary, pending the erection of the university buildings according to plans fully considered and adopted, but deferred during the war on account of financial considerations. The library contains 30,000 volumes.

The officers of the University are: President, Dr. F. F. Wesbrook; registrar, Mr. C. E. Robinson; assistant librarian, Mr. John Riddington. Two colleges and eleven departments have been organized and the staff for them appointed. Mr. Reginald W. Brock is Dean of the College of Applied Science. In the Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Mr. Brock is professor and Dr. D. D. Cairnes assistant professor. In the Department of Mining and Metallurgy, Mr. J. Moncrieff Turnbull is professor. In the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Douglas McIntosh is professor of chemistry and head of the department, and Dr. E. H. Archibald is assistant professor. In the Department of Civil Engineering, Mr. H. K. Dutcher is assistant professor. In the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Mr. I. Killam is assistant professor, and Mr. F. C. G. Wood lecturer.