

It should be quite feasible not only to select the proper class of workers across the ocean, but to place them exactly where they are needed.

### THE PAYNE MINE

The once famous Payne Mine was sold at public auction in Montreal to Senator Forget for \$60,000. The bidding started at \$800. In its time the Payne paid over \$1,000,000 in dividends. The property consists of four small claims on Payne Mountain on the slope toward Carpenter Creek. The Payne was stupidly and grossly mismanaged. It is safe to predict that in due course it will once more become a producer.

The original company was organized in 1891, and was capitalized at \$2,500,00 in \$1 shares. From 1899 the shares fell steadily until a few years later they dropped to 10 cents. They then disappeared from the market.

### PROGRESS

The large amount of mining machinery under order or being installed in the Cobalt camp is an encouraging symptom. In itself it is indicative of progress and may be taken as tangible evidence that the mine owners in general have faith in their properties. The needs of the camp have created a temporary famine in ore mining machinery. Air compressors and other machinery ordered six months ago from the manufacturers are still undelivered. These delays are especially costly to mines groaning under heavy share capital. Every effort is being put forth to catch up with the unexpected volume of business. It is quite apparent, however, that the manufacturers have been caught unprepared.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

The new mining law in Germany has passed its third reading and been referred to the Upper House. The most important provision reserves the right of exploration in certain areas to the State, with the power to transfer the working rights to others against indemnity and with a temporary title.

Of recent years (one might almost say of recent months) gas producers and gas engines have been improved so markedly and their application widened to such an extent, that the cost of power has been cut in two. Peat and lignite are now possible and profitable sources of commercially saleable energy. A peat bog may now become a rival of Niagara. There is already a growing tendency to develop power at the coal mines and transmit it electrically. The effects of this movement will be entirely beneficial. The enormous waste, which is the usual concomitant of the usual methods of

raising steam, will be obviated and a much higher efficiency in developing power will indirectly conserve our coal resources.

In our respected contemporary, *The Mining and Scientific Press*, there appeared recently an article entitled "On Technical Writing." Many of the pet phrases current among mining men were heartlessly impaled as specimens of "bad" English or as inaccuracies. While we concur entirely with the spirit of the article referred to, we may be allowed to remark that in another respect the composition of many technical men is faulty. To ourselves the laws of punctuation have always appeared to be a blot upon our civilization. The writer who seeks to punctuate by rules need have no other ambition in life. However, the remedy is at hand. A Toronto writer, Dr. J. D. Logan, in a quietly revolutionary little book, "Quantitative Punctuation," has breathed upon the hitherto sacred "laws" and they are not. We seriously recommend "Quantitative Punctuation" to all young technical writers.

It is now generally admitted by the best authorities that the spontaneous ignition of coal is attributable to the action of the occluded oxygen in the coal. Freshly-mined coal absorbs oxygen freely. Since the coal in some degree retains its original porous structure, these pores are filled with methane and carbon dioxide, gases associated with its origin. Freshly-mined coal, on exposure to the atmosphere gives up these gases and absorbs oxygen. In large pieces of coal this action is superficial; but it is tremendously increased as new surfaces are exposed by breakage. This phenomenon in itself can not bring about ignition. There must be at some point an extrinsic factor which causes a local rise in temperature.

Moisture is a very potent factor in promoting the chemical action of the occluded oxygen. Iron sulphide, despite the popular idea that it is the principal agent in causing spontaneous ignition, plays but a subsidiary part

We referred in a previous issue to the mischief wrought by unqualified or spurious assayers. A mining boom always brings with it a swarm of pseudo-assayers, imitation mining engineers and professional crooks. Cobalt has been afflicted with all three varieties. But as she takes her place as a steadily productive camp, she will give a more and more attentive ear to the reputable, honorable men of experience. To-day the better and cleaner element is in the ascendency. When Cobalt has attained her majority she will look with disgust upon the frisky fakirs of to-day, and a full page advertisement will cause her pain.