

## Canada's Mining Industry

# Canada's Underpaid Experts

**Government Issues a Statement Replying to Criticism—The Geological Survey Has Lost One-third of its Staff in Three Months—Salaries Not Equal to Those Offered By Corporations**

By F. W. Gray, Editor of Canadian Mining Journal.

Further bearing on the opinions expressed under the above caption in the last "Journal" we reproduce a Canadian Press dispatch which has appeared in the newspapers, making excerpts from a Statement by the Civil Service Commission which takes exception to the widespread condemnation by Canadian newspapers and the technical press of the circumstances which have compelled a number of the members of the Geological Survey to resign their positions in order to take up more remunerative employment offered to them by wealthy oil corporations. We do not believe that the explanation of the commission requires much comment. It is self-revealing enough. The crux of the statement is in the following sentence, which we excerpt:

"This powerful and tremendously wealthy corporation (The British Petroleum Company) approaches an officer of the staff of the Geological Survey who has been receiving \$2,600, but who under the classification will at once increase to \$3,300, and offers him \$6,200 to start with. The Government cannot compete with such an offer, and the country would not sanction it."

What justification was there at any time, let alone the unusual times through which we are passing, for paying a competent geologist \$2,600 a year. What ground is there for considering \$3,300 to be an adequate annual salary for a competent professional man to-day.

The Commission ask that equally wide publicity should be given to the actual conditions under which the defections from the Geological Survey are taking place as has been given to the de-

fections and their necessary consequences. It may be surmised that the daily and technical press will gladly give the requested publicity, for the facts disclosed by the Commission's statement of explanation and defence emphasize the point we have previously endeavoured to make clear, namely, that there is a fundamental and absolute misconception in the official mind, and in the mind of our provincial and federal legislatures, of the status of the scientific man, and the remuneration that he should receive.

The Commission states that two of the members of the Survey who are going away admit that the revised scale of salaries "is as liberal as the Government is justified in offering." Judging by the salaries for which Government geologists have worked in the past, we hardly think they can be admitted as competent judges of what is the extent of the remuneration the Government is justified in offering. The Ottawa Journal more-accurately sums up the relative issues at stake when it remarks:

"The loss within a few weeks of one-third of its staff is the worst blow ever received by the Geological Survey—the most powerful single instrument in the past development of the natural resources of Canada. Coming at the present crisis in the progress of that nation this is nothing short of a calamity."

It is assumed—and it is nothing but an assumption—that the people of Canada will not sanction adequate remuneration of the Geological Survey and other departments of the Civil Service detailed to deal with scientific matters, but why should the people of Canada play second fiddle to a private corporation?

### German Marine Insurance Schemes.

The new German government, following the example of its predecessor, has been discussing the question of creating a state monopoly of insurance. This has drawn from Herr Wilhelm Kisskalt, manager of the Munich Retrocession Company, the leading German institution of this kind, a statement to the effect that the creation of a state monopoly of insurance would strike a death blow at retrocessions, for the reason that retrocession is not, properly speaking, a branch of insurance, but a spread of direct insurance. Direct insurers need retrocession facilities, because they are unable to retain the full lines written, after a certain maximum has been reached. But when the state itself is the insurer, retrocession becomes superfluous on account of the unlimited resources of the state. Herr Kisskalt fears that the death of retrocession would bring about the death of the German reinsurance monopoly, for the reason that reinsurance is a natural international corollary of retrocession and it is the lead taken by the German retrocession companies which brought in its train supremacy in the field of international reinsurance. A summary of results from retrocessions obtained by Germany from

foreign countries is not available, but the insurance text-books show that in the ten years preceding 1914, premiums retroceded to German companies increased by 100 per cent, reaching a value of about £28,000,000 in 1913, of which about £25,000,000 was obtained by pure retrocession companies.

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