New Corporations.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating E. F. Hutchings, John Robertson, R. S. Illey, John Gait, J. G. Ulegborn, D. McKenty, Jos. Maw, Wm. Brydon, J. H. Leech, E. L. Drewry, J. W. Harris, C. H. McNaughton, Dr. J. S. Gray, T. Nicol, W. G. Scott, Dr. Carscaden, Dr. C. W. Clark, A. McLaren, Jas. Burridge, R. Ross Sutherland, all of Winnipeg, and Hugh Armstrong, of Portage la Prairie, under the incorporate name of "The Manitoba Exploration Co., with a capital stock of $75,000.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating E. Campbell, A. E. Howey, R. W. Hill, Geo. Bayley and N. A. Cleveland under the corporate name of "The Prairie City Loan Co., with a capital stock of $20,000.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating the "Ontario,Manitoba and Western Land Co., Ltd.," with a total capital stock of $150,000.

Messrs. W. J. Clearihue, W. T. Peace, W. R. Watson, R. G. Watson, T. Wilson and W. W. Richardson have been granted letters patent incorporating them as "The Assiniboine Realty Co.," with a capital stock of $100,000.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating "The Hartney Farmers' Elevator Co., Ltd.," with a capital stock of $20,000.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating Mrs. Ellen McLean, J. W. Kelly, W. J. Ross and J. G. Aver, of Winnipeg, and W. H. Butcher, of Fort Arthur, as "W. J. H. McLean & Co., Ltd.," with a capital stock of $100,000.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating R. Muir, C. Cassidy, Chief McRae, S. Edwards and D. Horn, of Winnipeg, and H. S. Lewis, of Fort William, as "The Modern Laundry & Dye Works, Ltd.," with a capital stock of $80,000.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating "Hamelin Bros. & Co." of Melita, with a capital stock of $100,000.

The Cotton Strike.

Lowell, Mass., April 4.—Six days have passed since the inauguration of the general suspension of Lowell's cotton mills and the resulting idleness of the operatives, but no disturbance or trouble or any sort developed. Apparently a struggle of months is in prospect. There has been a heavy exodus of idle operatives, mainly to Canada. Some have obtained work at other mill points.

No Change at Lowell.

Lowell, Mass., April 4.—The second week of idleness for over 14,000 textile operatives in six of the mills here will begin to-morrow and no change in the situation is expected. Some cloth-rooms are still being operated. The amount of unfinished goods on hand is not large and will furnish employment for only a few days. Officials of Tremont and Suffolk say the factories will shut down altogether during the coming week.

To Extend to Lakes.

Montreal, April 2.—Before the chamber of commerce Mr. Geoffrion, vice-president and government representative of the harbor board, said that while not authorized he was certain it was useless to seek for an extension of the South Shore railway; that it was the intention of the government to extend the Intercolonial railway from St. Rosalie, where it now connects with the Grand Trunk, to Longueuil, and enter Montreal over the new bridge which is to span the St. Lawrence. The idea was to ultimately extend the I. C. R. westward to Great Lakes.

Strike at Rossland.

Rossland, B. C., April 4.—The recent strike in the Le Roi mine continues to be the engrossing topic in connection with the local mining industry. Each day sees more work done on the 1,050 foot level of the mine, where the drift encountered the ore body and the magnitude of the discovery grows, although it is certain to be some weeks before the management makes an authoritative statement. It is learned that when the strike was first made it was supposed to be the downward strike of the Mulligan stope, one of the well known ore bodies in the mine, but that since then indications all point to the probability that the new ore body is the continuation of the main stope. This would enhance its magnitude, inasmuch as the main stope has been the most prolific producer of high grade ore in the workings.

The machinery for the Le Roi No. 2 concentrator has been shipped from England and it is expected here before the end of the month. Meantime the excavations on the mill site will be proceeded with.

At the district smelters more activity had been manifested. Trail has one large copper furnace in operation with a crew of about 150 men, and Northport has three furnaces running. Both companies figure on operations on a much larger scale as soon as coke shipments are forthcoming from Fernie.

Vancouver Strike Decision.

Vancouver, April 4.—An important decision was given in the county court this morning by Judge Henderson in the case arising out of the U. B. R. E. strike. Brown, a clerk in the local freight office sued the C. P. R. for wages, but the judge held that as he was a monthly servant and had left the company's employ without notice they were justified in withholding his salary. He accordingly dismissed the case with costs against the plaintiff. This was a test case, as all the other strikers are in a similar predicament.

Further Coal Mine Troubles.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 4.—A disagreement between the mine operators and mine workers in connection with the strike commission's ruling on the strike of hours to constitute a day's work, resulted in the closing of numerous collieries throughout the anthracite coal regions. The greatest dissatisfaction was expressed in the lower region and in Pottsville, Shamokin, Mahanoy and other mining towns, a majority of the mines were idle a portion of the day. At some of the collieries the men laid down their tools after two hours and eight hours and at others they remained in the mines nine hours, but refused to work ten hours when requested to do so by the superintendents. The operators assert that they will give the men only for the actual time worked, and the miners claim this to be violation of agreement.

Meetings of the local unions were held and in a majority of cases the miners decided to return to work Monday and submit the question to joint conciliation committees of operators and mine workers as suggested by the commission. Officials of the union as such are not permitted to interfere in the controversy.

The Graded Country School.

The movement to do away with the one-teacher country school is gaining ground. The great Canadian school system, the much lauded, the overpraised, is to be torn down, and a new structure erected. The old log school house and the little red schoolhouse are to be forgotten together. The new country school house is to be larger, to contain three or four rooms, and to serve a half or a whole township. It is to be a graded school, similar to that in a village, town or city. It will have a furnace in the cellar, pictures on the walls, comfortable benches, desks, teachers, and a telephone. Eventually it will be lighted with electricity furnished from the nearest waterpower producing station. In a few short years it will not be possible for the city youngster to shout "hayseed" at the country boys, for the latter will have equal advantages with the former.

With these improvements will come an increase in the teacher's salary, and an improvement in his or her efficiency. In a speech the other day, the Hon. Mr. Tarte stated that the average salary of 4,000 female teachers in the province of Quebec was $111 a year, while in four counties, out of 164 teachers, only two have diplomas. In rural districts the salaries are as low as $68 a year, and in Montreal as low as $122. Domestic servants in Montreal are as well paid, while nurses are more highly rewarded. Quebec is probably the worst served of all the provinces, owing to her system of religious schools, but even there they are agitating for improvements. Better-trained, better-paid teachers, is the keynote of the educational reformers in that province. None of the provinces pay their teachers too well, none of them train them too well.

This improvement in the country school system will mean more male teachers. The principal of the township school will be a man with a man's strong will. The female teacher will be allowed to develop in her proper position—at the head of the kindergarten and junior classes.

And to whom is this reform to be credited? To the various political superintendents or ministers of education whom the citizens of each province have set on such pedestals? No, indeed. The idea came from the United States, and has been disseminated here by the energy of Professor Robertson, of Ottawa, and the charitableness of Sir William Macdonald—the same sources from which have come our manual-training schools, now found in almost every city.—April Canadian Magazine.

The Gold of Ophir.

"At last the Ophir of Solomon has been found," remarks the Engineering and Mining Journal. "Every ancient digging in the countries tributary to the Indian ocean or the Red Sea has at different times been put forward as a claimant for the honor. The old trenches in Mysore, which were the incentive to the prospecting that made the Kolar gold field; the relics found among the ruined cities of Zimbabwe, in Mashonaland, so graphically described by the late Mr. J. Theodore Bent; the prehistoric remains encountered in the Lupata mountains, between the Nile and the Red Sea, by Mr. Charles J. Alford, have each in turn been accredited with the source of wealth of the wise king of Israel. To these precise localities there have been added the more vague suggestions of other countries and places, from the highlands of Abyssinia to the mountains of the moon, until the multiplicity of applicants for the honor postponed decision to a later day.

"This day," writes Dr. Carl Peters, has come. In the Zambesi region there is a mountain named Fura, a name which the Portuguese adopted from Arabian writers. The latter said it was a corruption of the Hebrew word Ophir. Moreover the word Africa, which the Romans took over from the Carthaginians, is a modification of Afur — Aufur—thus from Ophir, through Afir, Afer, Africus, was Africa evolved. A pretty bit of philological evolution, but untrustworthy in its very nature, as further deductions have often been found. However, Dr. Peters was well aware of the danger in relying upon a philological basis; he went much further afield than to the Zambesi. Between that great river and the Sabi, in the modern Rhodesia, there are many thousand old mines, 400 of which afforded the beginnings of undertakings now in course of actual exploitation. The extensive series of old workings reaches from north of the Limpopo to the Murchison range in the Transvaal. Messrs. Hall and Neal, who have also written a book about it, estimate that the area covered is 750,000 square miles. Within this area there are ruins of entire cities, fortresses and temples, bearing plentiful evidence of the ancient worship of Baal-Astarte, the Phœnician which characterized the Himyarites of southern Arabia.

"The discussion of this fascinating problem has not been the case of particular interest; in the first place, all the old legends impute the gold of Ophir to Arabia, where gold in quantity has to the present the idea of rich resources having grown from the fact that the gold of the ancient world passed through the hands of the Arabians, who were the great traders and pirates of antiquity, and of a much later historic period also. The 'gold of Arabia,' therefore, obviously belonged to the category of the Greek kalends. Secondly, the African negro, as we know him and find him, never could have done this work save under the compulsion of a higher race. Moreover, if we accept literally the Biblical statistics the output of Ophir must have been colossal. In First Chronicles, xxix, 4, we read that King David contributed to the building of the temple no less than 'three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir.' A talent being 114 pounds Troy, these three thousand talents would be worth over $80,000,000 of our money. These must have been 'powerful' diggings from which such a tribute could come to the Hebrew monarch. No such scanty gophering as has been seen in Nubia will explain the wealth of the Semitic kings nor that of the Ptolemies, all of whom obtained great stores of gold from an unknown 'El Dorado.

"It appears likely that Solomon's treasure vaults have been uncovered. It is still a fascinating subject of conjecture how the ore was treated and shipped from the interior to the Red Sea, although the methods of the Arab traders serve as a connecting link between the transport systems of widely separated periods."

Ontario's Mineral Production in 1902.

The important position which Ontario is attaining as a mineral producing country is shown by the returns for 1902, made public recently. The figures are considerably above those of any previous year, both in volume and value. The total value of the production was $13,577,440, an increase of $1,746,354, or 19 per cent. Metallic products contributed $6,280,529 and non-metallic $7,292,181, an increase in both cases. The chief increases were $1,262,751 in steel, $340,991 in nickel, $344,012 in iron ore, $298,136 in cement, $170,000 in coke, $132,060 in petroleum products, $80,963 in copper, $67,000 in lime, and $61,820 in mica. The principal decreases were $152,945 in natural gas, $119,460 in common brick, $79,372 in carbide of calcium, $32,374 in drain tile. The production of iron ore showed a large gain, from 273,538 tons to 359,288 tons, the bulk being from the Helen mine at Michipicoten. The slight falling off in pig iron production is ascribed to the scarcity of coke.

On the other hand there was a decided increase in the production of steel, which rose from $347,280 to $1,610,631, due largely to the opening of the Clergue works at the Soo. The Portland cement industry has taken firm hold, eight factories operating in 1902, with one starting since the close of the year, and three or four others under construction. Natural rock cement is also being made at four establishments. The total output of cement has grown from $670,880 to $967,016.

The following table shows the comparative value of the production of minerals in 1901 and 1902:

Product.	1901. Value.	1902. Value.
Metallics.		
Copper	$ 589,080	$ 686,042
Gold	244,443	239,853
Iron ore	174,450	518,462
Molybdenite	....	60
Nickel	1,959,970	2,300,961
Pig Iron	1,701,700	1,860,000
Silver	84,830	80,000
Steel	347,280	1,610,631
Zinc ore	15,200	11,200
	$ 5,016,734	$ 7,030,259
Less value domestic iron ore smelted into pig iron and domestic pig iron converted into steel	400,000	745,000
Net value metallic output	$ 4,616,734	$ 6,285,259
Non-metallic		
Actinolite	$ 3,126	$ 6,150
Arsenic	41,677	48,000
Building stone, etc.	854,000	1,070,000
Carbide of calcium	168,792	89,418
Cement, natural rock	107,625	76,678
Cement, Portland	562,395	904,338
Corundum	53,115	83,83
Brick, common	1,530,660	1,411,200
Brick, pavior	37,000	42,000
Brick, pressed and terra cotta	104,394	114,73
Felspar	6,375	12,75
Graphite	20,000	17,80
Gypsum	13,400	15,00
Iron pyrites	17,500	14,98
Lime	550,000	617,00
Mica	122,400	60,580
Natural gas	342,183	189,24
Pottery	190,650	171,70
Petroleum	1,467,940	1,600,00
Salt	323,068	44,69
Sewer pipe	147,948	191,96
Talc	1,400	80
Tile, drain	231,374	199,00
Total non-metallic	$ 6,814,352	$ 7,292,18
Add net value metallic output	4,616,734	6,285,25
Total production	$11,422,535	$13,577,44

Ore Shipments.

Grand Forks, B. C., April 5.—Owing to coal miners' strike at Fernie, resulting in the closing down of all the Boundary district smelters with the exception of Granby plant, the ore shipments during the past week were the smallest for any similar period during the past year, 4,512 tons of ore were shipped by the Granby mines. This makes the ore shipments of the Boundary mines for the year to date aggregate a total of 132,762 tons. Coke shipments from Fernie now that the strike is settled, were resumed yesterday. Eleven carloads are in transit to Granby smelter.