

These features really look like magmatic segregation under the influence of gravity, but they are snares of the evil one. The true believer in the aqueous theory sees through the deception and knows that hot water did it all. One is reminded of the faith which removes mountains.

After the magmatic theory has been so completely discredited in the Sudbury region it is disquieting to find it crop up again a few pages farther on, quite unabashed, where another authority uses it in a modified form to account for the Alexo nickel deposit. There is the definite statement that no replaceable mineral has been attacked and that the ore reached its present position while molten and not by the action of heated waters; so that things happened at Alexo which have been quite discarded by the latest student of the Sudbury ore deposits.

The mining geologist finds much of interest and much to ponder over in the Report of the Royal Ontario Nickel Commission.

Yours, etc.,

GEOLOGIST.

THOSE PRODUCTIVE PHOSPHATES.

Editor Canadian Mining Journal:

Sir,—It seems mean to gloat over anyone who is smarting from wounds received in combat, but I cannot refrain from alluding to the answer or quiverfull of answers you got from Mr. White (winner of L.M.) re the discovery of phosphate deposits. I warned you at the time that your attack was ill-judged. Now see what you got! It was more like a shower of quills from a porcupine than anything else. Many a dog has attacked the harmless, if unmolested, porcupine in wanton sportiveness just because he looked slow and stupid and an easy mark, and has regretted it bitterly afterwards. You understand now how the dog feels, and can appreciate Seton-Thompson's famous picture of the porcupine and the dog reproduced below.

Yours etc.,

OBSERVANT READER.

Editor's note.—Those phosphate deposits seem to have produced a crop of correspondence, if nothing else.



AN APPRECIATION.

The reproduction, in colors, on the front cover of our March 1st number, of a specimen of gold ore from the Croesus mine has been favorably commented on by many of our readers. The following is from Mr. A. G. Charleton, a past president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy:

"I am greatly taken by your artistic frontispiece to the Journal of March 1st. It is the best thing of the kind I have seen, both from the point of view of the mineralogist and artist. It is absolutely truthful and realistic, whilst it is pleasing to the eye."

THE M. C. M. BATTALION.

Houghton, Mich., May 6.—A battalion of United States engineers, to be known as the Michigan College of Mines Battalion, is the result of an address delivered by Col. J. P. Petermann of Calumet at the banquet of the Alumni Association of the Michigan College of Mines last Saturday night.

After a lapse of one week, President F. W. McNair of the college was enabled to give out yesterday the announcement that the battalion virtually is organized, officered, and manned. The celerity with which this strong and important military unit was brought into existence indicates the patriotic intent of the Copper Country.

The plan of the battalion organization is this:

It will be known as the Michigan College of Mines Battalion of Engineers of Michigan in the National Guard of the United States.

It will be officered by alumni of the Michigan College of Mines, with the exception of present vacancies in the Calumet Company, which will be filled from among the membership of that company.

The Calumet Engineers will be Company A. Companies B and C will be wholly new, with the exception that their non-commissioned officers will for the most part be drawn from the Calumet company in order to facilitate the training and organization of the companies. Students and alumni of the college, practical miners and all eligible young men are asked to fill up the ranks.

The organization will be completed this week, with the companies up to full peace strength at least, and the battalion will be mustered into the service of the state within ten days.

Within a month it is confidently expected the battalion will be equipped and mustered into the service of the United States and in active training at some mobilization camp.

As soon as the preliminary organization is effected non-commissioned officers of the Calumet company will begin drilling the recruits.

Mr. B. W. Vallat will be major.

PLATINUM.

Most people are apt to think of platinum as pre-eminently adapted to settings for precious stones, but the metal is in fact indispensable to many essential industries. Platinum dishes and utensils are absolutely needed in all chemical laboratories, and upon these laboratories all great industries are dependent for guidance. Alloys have been devised for use in the ignition systems of internal-combustion engines, but no substitute for platinum has been found for certain delicate parts of these systems. Platinum and allied rare metals are widely employed in instruments of precision required for making physical tests of materials of all kinds. Probably platinum is now most valuable for its use in the contact process of making concentrated sulphuric acid, which is essential to a great number of industries that are vitally important at all times, and particularly in time of war.