

entitled under the Act as it stood originally, there might be almost as many members of examining Boards as there are miners coming up for examination monthly.

These problems will be completely met by the new Central Board. Instead of the men going to the Board, the Board will go to them. It will visit each coal mining district at regular intervals, the two permanent examiners just appointed being joined in each district by the Inspector of Mines of that District and conducting examinations for the benefit of miners wishing to secure the Certificates of Competency necessary to permit them to go to work as coal miners. Besides the obvious benefit that this will be to the candidate, both in respect of expense and loss of time, it will have the effect of setting a standard of knowledge among all underground workers in coal throughout the province, making it impossible, as sometimes now happens, for a man to fail before one Board and immediately after successfully passing another Board in an adjacent district. It will obviate the present difficulty of too much Board representation at one point and too little at another. Another important point—and this will be the death-blow to the practice sometimes countenanced in the past of permitting aliens to obtain employment in the coal mines of the province—is that no man will be admitted to a mine to work as a coal miner for a temporary period pending his examination. This has been allowed heretofore. Hereafter, however, if a man applies for work as a miner, and an immediate examination is impracticable, he must go before the Inspector of Mines for the district who, having satisfied himself of the man's qualifications, will issue him a temporary certificate. In such cases those affected must go before the regularly constituted Board at the first opportunity.

In this connection Mr. Sloan maintains that it is a manifest absurdity to allow an uncertificated man to assume the responsibilities of a miner for thirty days without his knowledge being tested, it being possible for an incompetent person in that period to endanger, not only his own life, but that of hundreds of others. He points out, too, as indicated, that the necessity of a candidate going before an Inspector of Mines to secure a temporary certificate will provide the means of much more adequate control than at present over those given underground employment, and he feels it will restrict the employment of aliens underground as miners in British Columbia.

Mr. Donald McLean, manager of the Coalmont (B.C.) Collieries, has been appointed Inspector of Mines for the Merritt District, according to an announcement made to-day (June 28) by Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines.

This vacancy was created through the transfer of Inspector Andrew Strachan from Merritt to Fernie on the retirement of former Inspector T. H. Williams from the Crow's Nest Pass District.

The new Inspector of Mines, Mr. McLean, returned from service overseas about 18 months ago. He enlisted in the early part of the war and was through a considerable of the first military operations on the western front. Finally he was wounded and invalided home.

Mr. McLean has high qualifications for the discharge of the duties of the post to which he has been appointed. He is the holder of a First Class Certificate of Competency for British Columbia and Alberta and, since his return from Europe, has been manager of the Coalmont Colliery. He also has had a varied and

lengthy experience in other coal mines of the province, for many years being employed as overman at the Extension Colliery, and later teaching at the Mining School at Ladysmith.

#### NORTHERN ONTARIO.

#### "Post-Mortem" on Nipissing Not Necessary—Our Correspondent Reveals Inaccuracy of Deductions in Toronto "Saturday Night" Article.

In an article written by Carpel L. Berger, in the Financial World, New York, and reproduced in the "Saturday Night," Toronto, on June 21st, appear a number of startling deductions and prophesies with regard to the Nipissing Mines, of Cobalt. The article is one of the most pessimistic written in recent years in connection with the silver mines of Cobalt, and would be alarming to shareholders of some of the mining companies operating in the district, but for the undeniable fact that the article from beginning to end is founded chiefly on inaccuracies, and is but another demonstration of how impossible it is, and how pitiful is the attempt of any man to deal with a subject about which he has but very little information. The article does not even show ability to properly analyse a mining report.

For instance, it is stated that "Only 33 ounces per ton was the average recovery in the first 4 months of 1919 from combined high-grade washing ores and low-grade cyanide milling ores." How the writer arrived at these figures is difficult to understand, as the official average has ranged from 40 to 45 ounces. It is quite possible the 33 ounce average was reached by dividing the number of ounces produced by the Nipissing by the amount of ore treated in the mill. Mr. Berger apparently divided the Nipissing bullion production by not only Nipissing ore, but also including the customs-ore from other mines which was treated in the Nipissing mill. So much for the incorrect statement in connection with the average grade of the ore.

The writer continues: "In the early months of 1919, the yield of high grade washing ores dropped to only 700 ounces per ton, and when it dropped to 450 ounces per ton in April, the high grade mill was closed down, signifying the exhaustion of large bodies of high-grade ore. Henceforth the high-grade, such as may remain or be found, will probably be mixed with and handled as part of the feed of the low-grade mill." This statement is incorrect in every particular. First, it is a fact that the high grade ore treated so far this year has averaged from 1,400 to 1,600 ounces per ton, and for the first six months of 1919 has exceeded the average of 1918. Second, the high-grade ore is *not* being mixed with and handled as a part of the feed for the low-grade mill. The fact is that owing to the war having caused the quotations for mercury to increase from a minimum \$33 per flask of 75 pounds, to a maximum of \$130 per flask, it was decided to discontinue the amalgamation process, but arrangements were made to treat the high-grade by cyanidation, after giving the ore a preliminary treatment with bleaching powder in the tube mill. Accordingly, the necessary apparatus for the process was installed under the same roof as the equipment for treating low-grade ore. This is why the New York critic becomes erroneously obsessed with the idea that the Nipissing had exhausted its high grade ore! Furthermore, the change was not made in April, as Mr. Berger states. The change was made in August, 1918,