

is long and costly. Hence shareholders should be content to dispense with dividends until such time as they can be paid without injury to the business.

The present condition of the market has been induced by the unwise desire to make a fine showing. Over-production has adversely affected prices. It is certainly not yet possible to market the present outputs. How soon it will be possible is a matter of conjecture. And this is the crux of the whole question. Over-production is a costly expedient. It is not worth while. The time has come to lend every energy to mining, milling, and marketing. Of these three the last named is, just now, by far the most important.

Greatly overdone as has been the amalgamation of Canadian enterprises, it is wrong to condemn sweepingly the principle of consolidation. Consolidation without the injection of superfluous water brings many and decided advantages, especially in such an industry as asbestos mining. Amalgamated Asbestos had more than a fair injection. But the water is there and must remain there until removed by catastrophe or by gentle evaporation. The latter method is to be preferred.

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ONTARIO BUREAU OF MINES.

Part I. of the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines has just come to hand. It contains the usual exhaustive and clear statistical review from the pen of Mr. T. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines. Mr. E. T. Corkill, Inspector of Mines, reports upon and analyses in close detail the mining accidents that occurred during 1909. Mr. Corkill also reviews the mining operations of the year and the development of water powers in mining districts.

The Kent gas field is the subject of a short paper by Mr. G. R. Mickle, Mine Assessor. Mr. G. C. Mackenzie continues his valuable researches in the concentration of iron ores. His present contribution "Concentration of Low Grade Magnetites," contains several exceedingly useful treatment determinations on Ontario ores. Mr. Mackenzie's general conclusion is that the process of magnetic separation is well worthy of serious and immediate consideration by operators in this province. This conclusion is based upon continuous and systematic investigations covering several years.

Dr. E. S. Moore writes of the Lake Savant iron range area. Although no rich ore has been encountered here as yet, Dr. Moore expresses the opinion that the range is worth prospecting.

"Nepheline Syenites of Port Coldwell" is the title of the concluding paper, of which Mr. H. L. Kerr is the author. This is an academic dissertation upon the petrographic characteristics and the geologic associations of the above mentioned rocks.

The Nineteenth Annual Report is profusely illustrated and is accompanied by three coloured geological maps, —respectively, of Lake Savant Iron Range, District of

Thunder Bay, and Porcupine Gold Area—and one map profile from Toronto to the Archean-Palaeozoic boundary on the Hudson Bay slope. Along with the Porcupine map are several detail maps.

Our readers will welcome the announcement that Part II. of the Annual Report, which will appear later, is to consist of a revision of Dr. W. G. Miller's classic Report on the Silver Regions of Northern Ontario. This will not only be brought up to date, but will also be much more comprehensive than before. South Lorrain, Montreal River, and Gowganda will be dealt with in addition to Cobalt.

In several respects we notice improvements in the Ontario Report. The illustrations are well chosen and more numerous than heretofore. The statistical tabular statements are more complete. Particularly is this the case in Mr. Corkill's painstaking summary of mining accidents. The review of mining is creditably complete considering that this work also falls upon Inspector Corkill's shoulders. In fact, the whole volume is instructive. But we must once again express our conviction that it is foolish and futile to throw the inspectorial work of the whole of Ontario upon one individual.

There is no room to doubt the past and present need of more rigid inspection. It is a physical impossibility for one man to cover Ontario adequately. It is also most unjust to expect any faithful and competent officer, —and both of these adjectives apply to the present inspector— to cover, in detail, a field like Ontario. The province can well afford to appoint a staff of paid assistants for the work.

MINING ACCIDENTS IN ONTARIO DURING 1910.

The Ontario Bureau of Mines Report for 1910, referred to generally in another column, deals more thoroughly than usual with mining accidents.

We note in reading the inspector's report that 34.7 per cent. of the fatalities are classified as resulting from accidents due to danger inherent to the work itself; 10.2 per cent. from accidents caused by defects in the mine workings; 8.2 per cent. from accidents through fault of fellow workmen; 40.8 per cent. due to accidents through fault of injured persons. The remaining fatalities, 6.1 per cent., are not susceptible of classification.

According to this analysis, at least 59.2 per cent. of the fatalities that occurred during 1909 were preventable. In other words they were due to carelessness on the part of workmen, or to negligence on the part of operators. But the latter is not seldom a contributory cause. And whilst it is impossible to prevent carelessness altogether, it should be quite practicable to reduce it to a minimum. It is not appropriate here to discuss the proportion of blame that falls upon the operators. But we can assert without fear of contradiction that accidents would have been fewer had the operators done their whole duty.