

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

From the gathering together of professional men there comes good. The Canadian Mining Institute trans-continental excursion, in 1908, brought definite and prompt commercial results. Also it established many lasting friendships. It is not to be doubted that the recently concluded International Geological Congress will induce similarly beneficent effects.

Dr. W. G. Miller, who was Ontario's representative at the Congress, contributes to our pages a very interesting account of the convention in Sweden. In commenting upon certain iron mining enterprises, Dr. Miller alludes to the surprisingly good treatment accorded to the Swedish miners. The mining towns are commendably clean. The men are well cared for and are well paid. Living expenses are low. Pensions for long service, and insurance against injury are provided. Herein is food for thought.

Canadian operators, especially operators of iron mines, will do well to read carefully and to digest thoroughly this highly informing article.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The State Geologist of Wyoming, Mr. Edwin Hall, recognizing the evil wrought by long-distance promoters, wrote lately a strong letter on the subject of oil promotions in Wyoming. At the request of Sir Boverton Redwood, to whom the letter was addressed, the communication was published in full in "The Financial

Times," London, Eng. Mr. Hall has a practical sense of his duty to the public and to his own state.

Judge Mabee, as chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission, has given recently a decision that bears upon the mining development of northern British Columbia. It appears that, contrary to specific agreement, the White Pass & Yukon Railway has fixed an exorbitant freight rate as between Carcross and Skagway. This rate the Commission decided to cut in half.

A fourth edition of the geological map of the Cobalt area has recently been published by the Ontario Bureau of Mines. The first edition was issued in 1904 before Cobalt had attracted the attention of the public, and was of service to the early prospector in the camp. There have also been reprints of the first three editions. Separate maps have been published from time to time of South Lorrain and other areas contiguous to Cobalt. The last edition combines therewith the area mapped in 1904 and includes the Gillies Limit. The new map is in the same scale as the former ones, 1 mile to 1 inch. The large scale map, 400 feet to 1 inch, was published in 1907.

Great Britain imports granite in large quantities from Belgium, and marble from Italy. The great bulk of imported granite, however, comes from the Channel Islands.

PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS AT GOWGANDA

(Written for the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL by G. M. COLVOCORESSES.)

People visiting Gowganda this summer complain that the camp is very quiet and, from some points of view, this is certainly a fact. From the standpoint of the boomer Gowganda is now numbered among the down-and-outs, and in the columns of certain daily papers it no longer furnishes the settings for thrilling romances of the Monte Cristo order. On the other hand, there is more real serious development and mining work going on than at any time in its short history, and in many cases the results are highly encouraging.

A glance over the present situation shows both bad and good points; the latter I think predominate. The failures that have already been recorded can nearly always be traced to one of two causes,—trying to mine where there is no silver, or lack of sufficient capital to develop properly the property. The last mistake can often be rectified in time; the first is bound to be fatal. There is no excuse for people who buy claims that they have never seen nor have sent any responsible person to examine; no more is there for those who purchase a property on which has been found diabase, calcite and the so-called "aplite," with the conviction that large bodies of pay ore must necessarily be associated with these rocks; and there seems but little more excuse for the men who paid \$100,000 in cash, on the surface showing of a single tiny vein with a high grade silver ore shoot two feet in length, three-quarters of an inch wide, and

developed by test pit eight feet deep. As a matter of history the ore shoot referred to and many others like it have never produced \$100 worth of silver.

At the present time several Gowganda properties are closed down or operating with reduced forces of men. Some of these properties have not been able to find any ore, but in other cases promising finds were made and the suspension of work is due to financial difficulties or lack of power plants, which cannot be installed until next winter. In these cases the management figures that it will be more advantageous to wait until winter than to continue work by hand throughout the expensive summer months. I say expensive summer months because Gowganda is a topsy-turvy place in this respect. It is fifty miles from the railroad and in the midst of a forest, where nothing edible is yet grown and no industries or settlements are established. In winter, over the snow road and lakes, it costs \$1.50 per 100 pounds to bring in supplies from the railroad; in summer by boat to Elk Lake, and thence by a very rough wagon road, it costs \$2.50 to \$3.00 per 100 pounds, with a practical impossibility of hauling in boilers or heavy machinery. So instead of laying by supplies for the winter, Gowganda takes advantage of the winters to bring in its machinery, send out most of its ore and lay in supplies to last until the succeeding December. Some day, it is to be hoped that a railroad will find justification for building