

little chance to avail himself of the best market prices. But usually the price per unit ranges between \$5 and \$10 per unit for ore carrying sixty per cent. of tungsten tri-oxide. Hence, the mining of tungsten ores is nearly always profitable.

There have been discoveries made of wolframite and scheelite in Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Ontario, but heretofore the ores have not been found in commercial qualities.

Within the past few weeks, however, a vein of scheelite, four inches wide, has been opened near the gold mine of the Consolidated Mines Company of Canada, at Moose River, Halifax County, N. S.

The vein, which has been traced for five hundred feet, lies in a slate belt. Foot-wall and hanging wall are well defined. The vein is four inches wide and is composed of scheelite, accompanied, unfortunately, by a considerable quantity of mispickel. However, the ore, as mined and without concentration, shows 50 per cent. scheelite, and the separation of this mineral from the mispickel should be a matter of no difficulty.

In a forthcoming issue we shall publish a full account of this new find. Meanwhile we wish to emphasize again the fact that, even in a country as small as Nova Scotia, where mining has been an important activity for many years, there are unsuspected mineral possibilities. It is too true that nearly all the important mineral discoveries in the history of mining in Canada have been accidental. We have now sufficient knowledge of the geology and topography of our country to encourage systematic investigation. The chances taken by the uninstructed prospector can be largely eliminated by intelligent study, practical knowledge, and carefully constructed plans of campaign.

#### TECHNICAL WRITING.

On another page appears a review of Mr. T. A. Rickard's new book "A Guide to Technical Writing."

We regard the publication of this modest volume as an event both pleasant and significant.

For long Mr. Rickard has thrown the whole weight of his influence in the direction of reform. Once a flagrant sinner himself, according to his own frank confession, he has, with prayer and fasting, chastened and purified his style and diction. One result is that his writings are undoubtedly more widely read and more keenly enjoyed than those of any other writer on mining topics.

It is not possible, of course, to ascribe this pre-eminence entirely to carefully cultivated accuracy in the use of language. Perfection, whether on the printed page or in speech, is a pale thing. But Mr. Rickard's writings are neither perfect nor pale. They are spontaneous, vigorous, eminently readable, and accurate—humanly, not divinely, accurate. They have an inherent

charm that can neither be acquired nor transmitted; but they also show the signs of careful workmanship.

Now the path of the reformer is a rocky one. He is usually mistaken for a prig or for a fool, and sometimes he is both.

But the author of this bold and diminutive volume is neither a fool nor a prig. He is a mining engineer. He has wrought in mining fields all over the world. His wide knowledge of mining men and affairs has been honestly gained and earnestly absorbed. He writes as a mining engineer to brothers of his own profession. And he is worth listening to.

If, then, an experienced and cultivated writer feels deeply the need of purifying current technical literary usages, of cutting out what is spurious and superfluous, of cleaving to that which is simple, of choosing that which is correct, it is surely not too much to expect of younger and inexperienced writers that they will seek to avoid the open pit-falls of error and bad taste.

In all seriousness, loose, sloppy writing is inexcusable. Mining men are, for reasons into which we need not enter, painfully prone to carelessness in this direction. A little care, a little thought, the exercise of a little sound common sense would show offenders the justice of Mr. Rickard's strictures and the importance of his mission.

We earnestly hope that "A Guide to Technical Writing" will find its way into every Canadian mining camp and into every Canadian mining engineer's office.

#### THE GYPSUM INDUSTRY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The gypsum deposits of Nova Scotia are one of that province's large assets. During the year, 1907 the quantity of gypsum quarried was 332,345 gross tons. With the exception of a few thousand tons calcined and manufactured into plaster in the province, the whole of this output was exported to the United States.

The value of crude gypsum to the Nova Scotian operators is about one dollar per ton. It is shipped to the various points in the United States where a duty of 50 cents per ton is imposed. The manufactured product is sent back to Canada where it pays a duty of 12½ cents per ton.

Were all the gypsum produced in Nova Scotia calcined and manufactured before exportation the province would gain considerably more than one million dollars per annum.

This statement is strengthened by the fact that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick supply all but a fraction of the gypsum imported by the United States.

The analogy between the gypsum of Nova Scotia and the copper and nickel of Ontario is complete. Both provinces are losing millions annually by exporting raw material instead of finished products.