

equipped batteries or to special difficulties in the way of saving fine gold. The Witwatersrand mines are now getting nearly 40,000 oz. per month from tailings, and some of the companies put through many thousands of tons of stuff every week, and make a handsome thing out of the 5 dw. average returns.

The following extract from the inaugural address by Professor Arthur Smithells to the Yorkshire section of the London Society of Chemical Industry, is one which may be laid to heart by the various mining companies, and should be inscribed upon the walls of the board rooms where mine directors meet. After speaking of the training needed for a duly qualified chemist, Professor Smithells says:—"To finally equip him for the difficulties of his post, there should be in it some model British workmen, a model foreman or manager armed with his father's ignorance and who regards your chemist as a mischievous interloper, and last of all there should be a principal ignorant of science, but dimly conscious (whilst distrustful of all that is new fangled) that there is something in science that can help him, yet fatally impatient of experiment or investigation. Fortunately there are business men who can be business-like even on the question of availing themselves of scientific help. They will invest their money in a chemist's brains as they will in a new departure in their works. They do not simply turn on the steam and excrete if the machine will not work instantly to the advertised standard of efficiency. They are content at first with a small or imperfect output. But soon by a reasonable regard to functions and adaptabilities, by giving the thing fair play, it rises to its reputation and more than repays the costliness of its early days. It is precisely thus that a reasonable man treats his chemist and secures the return on money invested in the machinery of a trained chemical intelligence."

The principals of the Dominion Coal Co., Ltd., have been greatly annoyed by the blatant assertions of the Halifax *Critic* to be the organ of the company. The statement, as we have already pointed out, is absolutely untrue, and the proprietor of the *Critic* has been notified by the company that legal proceedings will be instituted against him if he persists in this reprehensible conduct.

The Jeffrey Asbestos Mine at Danville, Que., has been taken over by J. N. Greenshields, Q.C., Feodor Buas and others, on royalty, with a view to ultimate purchase, and a large force has been put to work within the last few days. The property is one of exceptional value, and will be exploited vigorously during the summer.

The Danville Slate Co. has a strong force at work. The output last year was 5,000 squares and about 2,000 cases school slate. The product is, we believe, finding a ready market.

Within a short distance from Johannesburg some 60 to 70 gold mines are now being develop-

ed or are already producing gold, remarks the *Johannesburg Star*. Fully 40,000 tons of coal are being consumed by these mines, at an average cost varying between 15s. and 20s. per ton delivered at the mine. It is estimated that 5,000 cases of dynamite are also consumed monthly, the average price of which it would be difficult to arrive at. Probably it ranges between £4 and £5 per case of 50 lbs. The labor bill, black and white, must absorb fully two millions of money per year. The annual outlay in machinery and stores is difficult to estimate, but will no doubt range between a half and one million sterling. The gold output is now valued at about five millions annually, and the dividends declared in the same period amount to about 1¼ millions from the mines. Great reductions in the cost of working are anticipated shortly by a readjustment of the wages question. The wages at present are unquestionably excessive for both black and white labor; seeing that blacks get £3 to £4 a month, and it costs them practically nothing to live, and the whites get £20 to £30 per month, and it costs many of them only half this amount to live, under better conditions as regards board, and with some companies possibly lodgings also, than they have hitherto been accustomed to. At most mines, three good meals are served daily for about 25s. per week. The coal bill will be reduced by the introduction of railway sidings, delivering coal direct in bulk, instead of in sacks, and last, but not least, the community should shortly profit largely from fair competition in dynamite being introduced. Reduction in the rate of native wages is now receiving attention.

With a view to encouraging investment and facilitating the development of its iron industries the Ontario Government has appropriated the sum of \$125,000, to be known as the Iron Mining Fund. Out of this fund it will pay upon all ores mined and smelted in the province for a period of five years from the 1st July next, a bonus of one dollar per ton on the pig iron produced, but the yearly grant is at no time to exceed \$25,000. Provision is also made for the purchase of two diamond drills for exploratory purposes. These are to be operated under direction of the Bureau of Mines or may be leased to applicants at a fixed rental, which we presume will be merely nominal.

The royalty has also been reduced from three to two per cent, such charge to be calculated on the value of the ore, less the actual cost of raising it to the surface and its subsequent treatment for the market. But it is important to remember that this purely nominal impost is not to be made until after seven years from the date of the patent or lease.

Some reductions are made in the price of mining locations as follows:—"On all Crown lands, sold as mining lands or locations, in the districts of Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, and that part of the district of Nipissing which

lies north of the French river, Lake Nipissing and the river Mattawa, the price is to be:—

- (a) If in a surveyed township and within six miles of any railway ..... \$3 00
- (b) If elsewhere in unsurveyed territory.. 2 50
- (c) If within six miles of any railway but in unsurveyed territory ..... 2 50
- (d) If situate elsewhere in unsurveyed territory ..... 2 00

The price per acre on all other Crown lands, sold as mining lands or locations, and lying south of the aforesaid lake and rivers, shall be:

- (a) If in a surveyed township and within six miles of any railway ..... \$2 00
- (b) If situate elsewhere ..... 1 50

An important provision has also been made to the Ontario Joint Stock Companies Letters Patent Act, whereby any mining company may from time to time dispose of shares and stock at a premium or discount, and in such manner as the directors may seem advantageous to the company. Clauses are also inserted limiting the liability of shareholders, regulating the sale of stock on non-payment of calls, etc.

Altogether, the Government is to be congratulated on having endeavored to meet the requirements of the mining industry in a liberal spirit.

The programme for the forthcoming united meeting of the members of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia and the General Mining Association of Quebec, to be held under the auspices of the Dominion Coal Company, Ltd. and the General Mining Association, of London, Ltd., at Sydney, Cape Breton, during the second week in July, has been drafted, and special arrangements for transportation of members by rail and water are nearly completed. The proceedings will open on Tuesday 10th July, and be continued until the end of the week. The collieries of the Dominion Coal Company, Ltd. and the General Mining Association, Ltd. will be visited, and there will be an excursion by boat to Louisburg. Visiting members will be entertained at a public dinner, in Sydney, and luncheons at Glace Bay and Sydney Mines are on the tapis. Papers will be contributed by Messrs. Hugh Fletcher, B.A., Ottawa; J. S. McLennan, Boston; F. S. Pearson, Boston; W. Blakemore, M.E., Glace Bay; Thos. Johnston, Glace Bay, and others. Altogether a programme of unusual excellence is being prepared and the attendance promises to be large. Members who propose being present should notify their respective secretaries early. A special number of the REVIEW, handsomely illustrated, will give our readers a full account of the meeting and verbatim reports of the papers and discussions.

The Geological Survey has, we believe, arranged that Mr. R. G. McConnell, will spend the summer in the Kootenay country investigating the nature and occurrence of the silver-lead deposits, which are attracting so much attention just now. This will be good news to the mining men in this promising new field for,