

be the author of the famous "Michael Macdonald Report" on Highland Mary.

We believe that the great bulk of practising lawyers in Toronto, and, indeed, in Canada generally, would refuse utterly to touch such promotions as those alluded to above. We also believe that no members of the profession should be allowed to bring it into evil repute by making easy the path of the mining fakir.

Similarly it should be impossible for any newspaper to become the incubator of swindles without losing its fair name.

### REPORT ON THE MINING AND METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES OF CANADA.

When it was announced about two years ago that the Mines branch of the Department of Mines, Ottawa, had received instructions to collect and publish full information concerning the mining and metallurgical industries of Canada, few people had any conception of the magnitude of the work. Whilst it was universally acknowledged that some attempt to present in accessible and compact form the mass of data obtainable, the impression was current that this would not necessarily consume more than six or eight months. However, the event has proved that a practically complete description of the mining and metallurgical activities of Canada requires a volume of 972 pages, embodying the labors of a large special staff over a period of at least eighteen months.

The bulky volume before us is not, however, to be taken as the final and definitive result of two years' labors. Whilst in its present form it is undoubtedly valuable, it will prove of but ephemeral interest unless revised editions are brought out periodically. Hence, this report may be regarded as providing not only present information that will prove of business value to all classes of investors, but as forming a working basis for an annual publication that will provide an immensely useful source of reference. And this, we believe, is in accordance with the plans of the Department of Mines.

In view of the large sums of money expended in the preparation of this report the Department has decided to fix its price at one dollar per volume. This nominal price will deter no one interested in the mining industry from securing a copy. It will have the effect also of preventing irresponsible persons from trespassing upon the generosity of the Department.

It is probable that had the various operating companies been grouped by industries instead of by territorial divisions, the report would have been more compact and even easier of reference. This is, however, not a matter that detracts seriously from the publication. No doubt the former plan would have been more costly and, under present circumstances, less complete.

We may also suggest that an arrangement whereby the general information is thrown together in the first part of the volume, and all data as to the personnel of

directorates, etc., placed in smaller type at the back of the report, would render the bringing out of new editions much less laborious.

On another page we print a more complete notice of the report. Here, however, we may place upon record our belief that the appearance of this comprehensive review of Canada's mining and metallurgical industries is an event of prime significance. Following last summer's efforts of the Canadian Mining Institute it should make our country's resources known all over the world.

We congratulate the Minister of Mines and the officers of the Department upon a monumental work achieved.

### FEES AND THE MAN.

Except under extraordinary circumstances it is bad business for the mining engineer to work openly for small or nominal fees. We need not reiterate here all the reasons that justify the consulting engineer in charging substantial amounts for his time and services. It will suffice to mention that in his advisory capacity the mining engineer assumes large responsibilities. His periods of employment are not continuous. Often he may suffer long periods of idleness. Hence, it is consistent neither with his actual needs nor with his professional dignity that he should work for insufficient fees.

A Montreal mining man, ostensibly a mining engineer, advertises in a daily paper the fact that he gives free advice on Cobalt mines and stocks. If one thing is more certain than certainty itself it is that advice thus offered is not worth taking. As to what returns for his trouble the alleged mining engineer expects we may venture a shrewd guess. What his confiding clients must receive will prove an exact equivalent of what they give.

### THE MINING ENGINEER'S REPORT.

As to what a mining engineer's report should contain there is a wide divergence of opinion. Some there are who contend that the mining engineer's opinion is the essential element. They argue that, since the mining engineer is a trained specialist, therefore his conclusions, drawn from careful examination of any mine or prospect, are the whole soul of the report.

The subject is one that requires handling with gloves; but there can be no harm in glancing at the other side of the question.

To a person totally unacquainted with mines and minerals, the interior of a mine is much the same as an inordinately large cellar. Unless his eye is caught by the actual glint of gold, or by some other such arresting phenomenon, he carries away merely an impression of gloom. Not only is he unable to interpret the very features that appeal to the mining engineer, but he is