

“ the necessary deposits of \$5 each. The stakers had
 “ then thirty days from the date of staking wherein to
 “ put in their application. After that application had
 “ been considered favourably by the Department at
 “ Ottawa, a process covering two months, they were
 “ given another thirty days in which to make payment
 “ of the annual rental of \$1 per acre, a total of \$5,160.”

To these remarks, Mr. Cory takes exception thus:—
 “ I enclose herewith for your information a copy of
 “ the Coal Mining Regulations, which have been in force
 “ since the 25th day of May, 1910, from section 16, of
 “ which you will see that payment of the rental must
 “ be made to the Agent of Dominion Lands within thirty
 “ days from the date of the receipt of his application
 “ in the office of such agent.”

Section 16 reads as follows:—

“ If the application is granted, the locator shall be
 “ notified in writing, and he shall be given a period
 “ of thirty days from the date of the receipt of his
 “ application within which to pay to the Agent of
 “ Dominion Lands the full amount of the rental for the
 “ first year of the term of the lease, at the rate of one
 “ dollar (\$1) per acre, and upon the receipt of such
 “ rental the lease shall be issued and shall bear date
 “ from the day upon which the application was granted.
 “ If the rental is not paid within the time specified, the
 “ application shall absolutely lapse, and the rights ap-
 “ plied for shall become available for other disposition.”

The first clause of section 16 is the keynote of the matter. But before making further comment let us give the authentic history of the instance on which our former editorial was based.

Near Brule Lake, in the vicinity of the Yellowhead Pass, two coal claims were staked last spring. The stakers were Messrs. Scovil and Bartholomew. The annual rental for their leases was payable on May 3rd. Payment was not made. Information to this effect reached the ears of an investor who was anxious to secure the territory. The investor's representative called upon the Dominion Land Agent at Edmonton, and from that official obtained confirmation of the fact that the rental had not been paid. He therefore hurried to the ground, with the intention of staking. Arriving there on May 4 he found, in addition to the original stakings, stakings dated in April in the name of a third person, and more recent stakings dated May 4, one day after the date on which payment of rentals was obligatory. The latter stakings were in the names of Messrs. Scovil and Bartholomew, and, of course, were valid, despite the fact that they may have been made at any date before the old lease ran out.

We repeat, therefore, that this process of restaking might easily go on indefinitely. According to the regulations the applicant is allowed 30 days in which to file his application after staking. After the application is filed, it is often a matter of months before the department decides to grant the lease. The applicant then has another 30 days in which to make payment of the

rental of \$1 per acre. If he is not able to pay, he can immediately restake.

We believe that this is a fair and full statement of the case. We shall leave it to our readers to judge how far Mr. Cory's strictures are justified.

THE UNDEVELOPED IRON RESOURCES OF CANADA.

Despite political vagaries, it may be believed that Canada's iron and steel industries have passed through the dangers and diseases of infancy. Amongst the world's producers of pig iron Canada ranks eighth, exceeding Sweden by a relatively large amount. Whilst, however, the production of pig iron is about 700,000 tons, it is not pleasant to note that the domestic output of iron ore hardly exceeds 250,000 tons, or roughly, about one-sixth of the quantity required to account for the pig iron produced. This measure of dependence upon foreign sources of supply is humiliating. Assuredly, we are lacking in enterprise or in acumen, or in both, when our attempts to exploit our mineral possibilities are so feeble.

As pointed out by Mr. A. B. Willmott, in a paper read before the Canadian Mining Institute, no official estimate of available iron ore in Canada has ever been made. No doubt the making of such an estimate would be extremely difficult. Yet it should be done without delay. One estimate, made by a member of the United States Conservation Commission, places the figure at less than fifty million tons. This is supposed to cover known ore. It can be but a small fraction of ore that can be almost as readily won. At best, it is the roughest kind of guess, and is significant only in so far as it shows the small amount of prospecting and development done.

What Sweden has accomplished, with opportunities not to be compared with Canada's, is alluded to in Mr. Willmott's paper. No country deserves more credit than Sweden for making bricks without straw. In face of most discouraging conditions, that small country has built up an industry that is almost as large, and, presumably, is much healthier than is the industry that we have artificially nourished.

HUNTING FOR MINES.

The much-quoted statement of Mr. S. J. Jennings, vice-president of the United States Smelting Company, to the effect that during the year 1910 that corporation rejected 514 mining properties, calls for comment. The additional facts that preliminary examination alone was made in 124 cases, that further work was done on 46, and that only two properties finally met the requirements of the company, require elucidation.

It can readily be understood that a corporation as large and powerful as is the United States Smelting Company knows definitely what it wants. Many limit-