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#### CONTENTS.

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| Editorials—  |      |
| Workmen's Compensation .....   | 773  |
| The Mines Branch Report .....  | 776  |
| The Eight-Hour Shift .....   | 776  |
| A Visit to Mines of Alberta and British Columbia .....   | 777  |
| The Gold Deposits of Nova Scotia. By E. R. Faribault....   | 780  |
| The Shields-Thielman Sectional Jig Classifier at Quincy Mill, Michigan .....   | 782  |
| Britannia Mine, Howe Sound, B. C. By R. C. McConnell..   | 783  |
| The Physiological Characteristics of Acetylene With Relation to its Use as an Illuminant in Mines. By E. E. Smith. . . . . | 785  |
| Eight-Hour Shift in Michigan .....   | 789  |
| A Defence of the Flame Safety Mine Lamp. By E. A. Harlwood. . . . .  | 791  |
| The Metal Cobalt and Its Alloys. By H. T. Kalmas.....  | 794  |
| Personal and General .....   | 795  |
| Special Correspondence .....   | 797  |
| Markets. . . . .   | 804  |

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

To the readers of the "Canadian Mining Journal" we extend our best wishes for A Merry Christmas and A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

A bill of considerable importance to mining men is that which Sir W. R. Meredith, Commissioner, has recommended to be passed into law.

It has long been recognized that employees should be compensated for injuries received while at work.

In general it is also recognized that the employer must pay the cost of accidents. There are, however, many cases in which the accident is caused by the carelessness of the employee, and then naturally the employer is unwilling to bear the burden.

Where the employer accepts responsibility there still remains to be determined what sum should be paid. Where the employer refuses to admit responsibility the injured must bring suit and then whatever the judgment a large portion of the money paid out by the employer does not reach the person injured.

In recognition of these facts and in an endeavour to revise the law so as to provide for fair compensation to the employee, a Commission was appointed, June 30, 1910, to investigate the compensation laws in force in other countries and to recommend a suitable law for Ontario.

A draft bill has been presented in April, 1913, and on October 31, 1913, the Commissioner made his final report to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province.

In this final report, Sir William says:

"At the outset of the enquiry it was contended by those who spoke on behalf of the workingmen: (1) That the law of Ontario is entirely inadequate in the conditions under which industries are now carried on to provide just compensation for those employed in them who meet with injuries, or suffer from industrial diseases contracted in the course of their employment; and (2) that under a just law the risks arising from these causes should be regarded as risks of the industries and that compensation for them should be paid by the industries.

"With these two propositions those representing the employers expressed their agreement, though it is fair to say that it was probably not intended to agree that compensation should be paid in respect of industrial diseases."

It was not considered necessary to enquire into the statements of the workingmen, as employees, employer and the Commissioner agreed that the present law is