

ing on the development of our iron ore deposits. The situation is a complicated one. But of this we are sure, namely, that Federal and Provincial bounties should be so adjusted as to encourage directly the use of Canadian ores.

MINERS' RELIEF SOCIETIES.

In the Province of Nova Scotia there are 12,000 colliery workers. At present there are sixteen miners' relief societies. The report of the Commission appointed some months ago to enquire into old age pensions and miners' relief societies, sets forth some of the weaknesses of existing relief societies. The entire lack of co-operation is, perhaps, the most serious drawback to the present system. The heavy cost of administration is also a hardship upon the miners.

The Commissioner's report therefore recommends that the Government of Nova Scotia take over the management of the funds of the several societies in excess of \$1,000, and that the societies themselves be organized into one large body with local branches.

We cordially agree with the idea of consolidation. The risk of insolvency will thus be reduced and the rates should become cheaper. But we see no justice in the claim that the Government should handle and administer the funds. It will be far better for all concerned, it will make for peace and mutual respect, if the miners' organizations control their own affairs. The suggested arrangement smacks of class legislation.

A CORRECTION.

Our Glace Bay correspondent has drawn our attention to an item that appeared in our last issue under Mining News of the World. The statement is there made that after the late Hamstead colliery disaster the rescue apparatus proved ineffective. This was by no means the case. Such a statement, indeed, is calculated to destroy the growing and much-needed confidence of operators and workmen in the apparatus used. In our next issue the matter will be given more attention.

THE MONTREAL RIVER DISTRICT.

BY HAROLD P. DAVIS.

With one conspicuous exception, there are no promotions in the Montreal river field, and few capitalized companies. The small amount of development work has been done by individuals. It is clearly understood by the owners and prospectors in the district that, with the present attitude of the investing public towards Northern Ontario mining fields, the development of this section depends upon their own efforts, and that there is little hope at present of obtaining assistance from outside sources. It is yet impossible to draw definite conclusions as to the persistence of the veins, or the depth of the silver enrichment.

With adequate funds devoted solely to development work, and the evidence of values which seemingly justify this development, the coming spring and summer should demonstrate whether the diabase areas in the vicinity of Silver Lake, Hubert Lake, and in James, Smyth, Tudhope, and Willet Townships, have or have not silver values in shipping and milling quantities. Strangely enough, although nothing is mineralogically exceptional in a region radiating from Cobalt, the values are seemingly confined to the diabase, and so far no evidences of silver and very few veins, of any sort have been noted in the conglomerate upon which Cobalt primarily pinned its faith. If the development of the rich outcropping veins confirms the surface showings, and the sinking of shafts or diamond drilling demonstrates the values existing at depth, ample funds will be forthcoming, and there is no doubt in the minds of those familiar with this section that it will take but little of such work to prove up shipping mines. While the areas of enrichment have not been definitely determined, the district under immediate exploration extends from Mountain Lake to Hubert Lake; Elk Lake which is an

expansion of the Montreal river intersecting them for a distance of fifteen miles.

Approximately twenty miles to the west, in the vicinity of Bloom Lake, there has been more or less activity with very favorable results. However, it is the six townships surrounding Elk Lake which will either register another silver camp in the Nipissing district, or a mineralogical freak. The areas of diabase and gabbro disclosing silver, smaltite, and associated minerals, include that portion of James township from its north west corner along the south bank of the river to the southeast corner. The area along the boundary of James and Tudhope includes lots 1 to 4 in the former; and lots 12, 11 and 10 in the latter, the section north of the river in lots 4, 5, and 6 in James; lots 7 and 8, concessions I and II Smyth; and the territory extending from Hubert Lake south through Thompson and Boland Lakes to Silver Lake. It has been remarked that the richest sections are generally in the narrower bands or belts of diabase which are outlined by quartzite and granite, the prevailing rocks of this district. The vein matter is calcite, barite, or aplite. The silver which probably was carried up with the vein filling occurs as leaf and fine grains. These veins are from a few inches to two feet in width and carry in places from a few ounces to several thousand ounces of silver. The calcite veins vary in width from narrow seams to 18 or 20 inches, and are in many instances decomposed on the surface, the silver being found in fine grain and leaf disseminated through a black muck. A pit sunk on one of these veins a few feet in depth usually reaches the rock calcite which carries as a rule a varying percentage of chalcopyrite, and in many cases smaltite and niccolite. There are also a number of outcropping veins of