compared to an immense geode, for the roof and walls were covered with fine, large crystals, equal in transparency and size to those of Ellenville, that are to be found in the older cabinets. This magnificent peak, one of the most stupendous in form and bulk and steepness on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, has other treasures in its rocky heart. On one side is a mine that yields silver and lead, and in the gray strata that line its castellated front is such a mass of fossil trilobites as can be found nowhere else on earth. These fossils are flattened in clay slate that is fragile. As the mountain has never been climbed much higher than timber line it is impossible to say what else may eventually be secured there. *Minerals.*

TRINIDAD PITCH.—Most of the mineral pitch that is now in use comes from the famous asphalt lake of Trinidad. Within ten years it has assumed a large commercial importance, for a Philadelphia man, Charles F. Stollmeyer, has begun to work it and has removed about a millon dollars' worth of the substance. He leases the lake from the Government for nearly $200,000 a year. A curious Indian legend has it that an entire tribe was suddenly ingulfed in the tract for the offence of shooting humming birds, which were supposed to be souls of the dead. It is about 100 acres in extent and stands on a plateau eighty feet above the sea and less than a mile from it. The geologists who surveyed Trinidad hold that the lake is not due to volcanic action or convulsion of any sort, but results from a slow process by which decaying vegetable matter is changed, in the hot soil and under a hot sun, into pitch and oil, instead of coal or peat—a change that would probably occur in a temperate climate. The pressure of neighbouring strata, partly lateral, partly overlying, forces the pitch through the opening that it has found and the supply may endure for centuries. Vegetable origin is suggested by the emergence of tree trunks that project above the surface. For some distance about the place the soil is soft and pitchy, and as the lake is approached, vegetation grows poor and stunted, the grasses and weeds being sustained largely by the rainwater that forms puddles here and there. The lake itself spreads out as a black mass, edged with woods, creased with rifts from three to thirty feet wide and two to six feet deep. These rifts usually contain water that tastes a little of bitumen, but is pure enough to drink and for fish and alligators to live in. Tiny islands of firmer soil dot the surface, their existence being indicated by clumps of bushes, but these firm places do not extend for any depth; they are literally floating islands, and those who often visit the lake notice that their position is frequently shifted, while once in a while an island will sink and emerge again with its leaves and branches crusted and daubed with bitumen. There is a slight but constant motion, imperceptible to the eye, in this strange reservoir, and it is only the pitch about the edge of it that hardens by loss of its oil and moisture. Beyond this firm edge it would be unsafe to venture, for the foot sinks deep at every step, and none can tell what gulfs of asphalt lie below. The mixture of earthy matter with the asphalt gives substance to it, and prevents it from becoming sticky or gummy. It will not adhere to the fingers and can be moulded into any shape, like putty. The oily smell, with occasional whiffs like sulphuretted hydrogen, that emanate from the lake are said to cause the avoidance of its immediate vicinity by birds and animals so plentiful in adjacent woods. —*Minerals.*