

EDITORIAL

THE WORK OF THE BUREAU OF MINES GEOLOGISTS.

During the past few weeks there has been in the "Toronto World" a great deal of criticism of the work of the Ontario Bureau of Mines. The criticism is quite unfair to the geologists employed by the Bureau. Very good work is being done, as many who have used Ontario Bureau of Mines reports and maps will bear witness. The Province is getting a lot more out of these men than it is paying for. The real cause for complaint is that a larger number of such men are not available for the work.

The mineral resources of Ontario are being more and more rapidly developed. It is regrettable that the Bureau of Mines has not a large enough staff of geologists to enable it to have promising areas mapped at a speed in keeping with that of exploration, but that is the fault of the province, not of its present employees.

No men have a better reputation among mining men than the chief officials of the Ontario Bureau of Mines. Mr. T. W. Gibson, the Deputy Minister, is known here and in the United States as an exceptionally competent director. Dr. W. G. Miller, the Provincial Geologist, is not only a distinguished geologist, but is a leading figure in the mining industry. It is true that he has been recently spending more of his time in England than in Ontario, but the province needs a capable representative there and no one is better qualified to bring Ontario's mineral resources to the attention of the Imperial Resources Bureau than is he. We would be glad to see him back on his job in Queen's Park, but it is idle to say that in his absence the Bureau is not doing good work.

Most of Ontario's metalliferous deposits are in pre-Cambrian rocks. The geologists of the Bureau—Knight, Burrows and Hopkins—are successfully studying and mapping these formations. There is more to be done than they can do in a reasonable time, but they should be given credit for what they are doing.

We could say more in praise of the work of the Bureau of Mines if we thought it good policy. Being convinced that the work should be speeded up in order that development of our mineral resources may come more rapidly and more intelligently, we are not so anxious to direct attention to the past activities of the Bureau as to the future. We need more work of the kind that is being done. The quality is satisfactory, but there are not enough workers to produce the desired quantity. Every year's delay in the development of our mineral resources means a loss to the pro-

vince. If the writer in the "Toronto World" give the Bureau proper credit for the work that it is doing, we would welcome his direction of its "World's" readers to the necessity of the province making a great effort to achieve faster progress.

CO-OPERATIVE RETAIL ASSOCIATIONS.

Dr. McFall, the Dominion Cost of Living Commissioner accuses the Retail Merchants' Association of openly and secretly opposing the growth of co-operative retail associations, and in doing so he discloses a thing that has been well known to those interested in co-operative stores.

The attitude of the Retail Merchants' Association is one that interests mining companies, as the hostility of the merchants has been extended to mining companies and corporations operating retail stores with the object of reducing the cost of living to their employees. A recent example of this policy is the intention of the gold companies at Timmins to operate a co-operative retail store with the express intention of reducing retail prices.

The Dominion Coal Company and the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company for many years have done the same, and throughout the war period these stores exercised a salutary and steadying influence on retail prices. Naturally, this excited the opposition of the retail merchants, who were almost able to promote legislation prohibiting the coal companies from operating their stores. No grounds were advanced for such action by the legislature except the deterrent effect of the competition of the company stores upon retail profits, and strange as it may seem, the Legislature of Nova Scotia were on the eve of acceding to the importunities of the retail merchants to abolish the company stores, and the merchants have still much hope that their efforts will eventually remove these stores as competitors.

The extraordinary presumption of the merchants went even further, for they asked that co-operative retail associations should be prohibited, and opposed the incorporation of co-operative societies in Nova Scotia. It seems strange that a body of men presumably so well-informed as the retail merchants should have so elementary a knowledge of the unassailable right of a group of persons to incorporate for any form of business that is not against the public interest or actually felonious, as to dare to publicly oppose the formation of a co-operative society, but it actually was done.