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Winnipeg, Man.—Up to date, three thousand six hundred and sixty-seven returned men of a total of eighteen thousand two hundred and fifty-nine for the whole of Canada, have been placed on the land as settlers in Winnipeg district by the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

Considerable success has attended the fox farming project of the Regina Silver Fox Company which is considering the extension of the ranch by 28 more pens. The company was formed last October with 30 pairs of foxes imported from Prince Edward Island. A number of pups were raised this year, and the officials of the company believe that they can produce a higher class of fur than the Maritime province owing to the colder winters.

An expedition consisting of the provincial mines inspector, chief land surveyor, and a geologist has left for the Lake Laronge country to explore for coal deposits or other natural resources. The party has been sent out by the Saskatchewan government to make a complete survey of the area in which it is claimed many valuable resources abound. There have been repeated stories of valuable coal deposits in the lake country.

**Canada's Mining Industry****Mining Ventures and the Public**

Under this heading in a recently issued report on the mining operations in the Province of Quebec, by the Superintendent of Mines, Mr. Theo. C. Denis, warning is given to the public as follows:—

Many warnings have been issued through the annual reports of the Quebec Bureau of Mines, guarding the public against the insidious literature and glowing statements of agents, offering mining shares and beautifully engraved certificates in ventures which have never had a chance of success, and we here repeat that the Quebec Bureau of Mines is entirely at the disposal of the public for technical information regarding the mines and mineral resources of the Province of Quebec. An enquiry on such subjects, addressed to the Department of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, Quebec, always brings to the writer information from which he usually can judge of the merits of mining ventures in the Province, and this will enable him to go into it with a better knowledge of the facts.

We think it opportune to here repeat these warnings, for with the resumption of more normal trade and industrial conditions, will probably come the re-appearance of the professional promoter of more or less avowable enterprises, issuing beautifully engraved stock certificates and brilliant prospectuses.

Although such activities are not limited to mining, it must be owned that the lure of returns of one thousand to one on the money invested in mining ventures, as usually inferred by the promoting literature, often attracts and entraps men otherwise sane and of keen business acumen. The last three years have been very prosperous and a great deal of savings has been accumulated, both in rural and urban communities, as demonstrated by the success of the various war-loans issued by the Government. This may prove an incentive to shady and questionable promoters to launch new efforts to make victims, especially in rural communities and among urban people of small means.

Therefore, before putting their hard-earned savings into mining or other ventures, of which they personally know little or nothing, the investors should enquire from reliable and disinterested sources as to the value and chances of success of such enterprises. The statements and promises of agents, whose sole interest is to sell shares, should not be taken without thoroughly investigating them.

The investing public should discriminate between "mines" and "prospects." Some producing mines, or mines well developed, constitute as safe an investment as any other commercial and industrial enterprise, but these rarely yield more than a fair return. On the other hand, "prospecting" and "developing," be it for ores, for natural gas, for oil, are naturally hazardous ventures. When successful, the returns from such investments are large, but failures are infinitely more numerous than successes. Such investments are not for the small savings, for it should always be remembered that the risk is proportionate to the returns. If the investor expects large returns he has to take great risks of losses. And before buying shares in companies searching for, or developing, deposits of gold, lead, zinc, or other minerals, or carrying on boring operations for gas and oil, the public should investigate the statements made by the peddlers of stock certificates, enquire from re-

liable sources as to the possibilities of the enterprises, so as to be able to discriminate between (1) "safe mining investments," (2) "legitimate and reasonable mining speculation," and (3) "mining frauds." In the first the returns are not high but are reasonably sure; in the second, the money contributed by the buyers of shares is really expended in intelligent search and development on the mineral deposits, which may or may not answer the hopes which were founded on them; and the third class comprises the ventures of shady adventurers who spend the money obtained from the sale of shares on full page advertisements, in printing alluring and tempting prospectus for the purposes of obtaining more money, of which the smallest possible fraction is spent in actual work, usually on hopeless mining claims.

**Marvels of High Speed Punching.**

Thoughts of the boxing ring are aroused by the title "The Laws of High-Speed Punching," which belongs to a paper prepared by Captain Tresidder for the British War Office. It deals, however, with a more formidable kind of struggle, as it investigates what happens when a projectile pierces armour-plating. More than a military interest attaches to this question, as Captain Tressider has found that there are laws which apply to a shell going through armor plate are the same as those concerned in the ordinary engineering process of punching holes. The extraordinary interest of this problem is suggested by the fact that a candle fired like a bullet will go right through a wooden board without changing shape. Another striking fact is that a 12-inch plate must exert 60 million horse-power in order to stop a 15-inch shell at a range of 10 miles. This enormous power is exerted only for one five-hundredth of a second, but in that brief space the plate does more work than a 33 horse power engine can do in an hour. Many results of great scientific and engineering interest have been attained by the author of this paper, who has worked out an entirely new theory of what happens when a projectile drives a hole through solid steel.

**A Monster Floating Dock.**

One of the largest floating docks in the world has been towed from the east coast of Scotland to a shipyard in Holland which is under British control. It was built during the war and when completed was at once commandeered by the Admiralty for use as a naval base. Ships of ten thousand tons can be raised in this dock, which proved extremely useful in the rapid repair of vessels at the base. It is five hundred feet long and seventy five feet wide inside, and it is built in three sections, each of which can be made a complete box dock. With this arrangement any two sections can lift the third out of the water when painting or repairing has to be carried out. The three sections are bolted together to make a complete dock. Three powerful ocean tugs were required to take the dock across to Holland, and in spite of bad weather the voyage was safely accomplished. Within three days of its arrival the dock successfully lifted a ship, and since then it has been continuously engaged.