

# EDITORIAL

## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORTS.

The Geological Survey has published a summary report on work done during 1918 in British Columbia and Yukon. The authors are W. E. Cockfield, C. Camsell, V. Dolmage, B. R. McKay, S. J. Schofield and M. F. Baneroff. Mr. Cockfield reports on Mayo area, Yukon and silver-lead deposits of the Twelvemile area, Yukon. Mr. Camsell reports on mercury deposits of Kamloops lake; boring operations for oil in the vicinity of Vancouver; the Copper Mountain area; and platinum investigations. Mr. Dolmage writes on Quatsino Sound and Mr. MacKay on Cariboo gold fields. Mr. Schofield reports on Britannia map area and Ainsworth mining district. Mr. Baneroff reports on Lardeau map area. These gentlemen are to be congratulated on getting their reports ready for publication in a reasonable time.

## SOME PLAIN TALK.

Col. Thomas Cantley, in his presidential address to the Mining Society of Nova Scotia spoke strongly against the tendency to favor putting all industries too largely under government control. He wants captains of industry to be allowed to get back to work.

Industries during the war were properly taken more largely under government control for war purposes. There has since been a desire on the part of many to see government control continued and made more complete. Others consider that the industries enlisted for war purposes should now be unfettered, and allowed to develop according to the ability and energy of the individuals connected with them. Our readers will find Col. Cantley's address elsewhere in this number.

## MINING INSTITUTE MEETINGS.

An account of the annual meeting of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, held in New Glasgow, is given in this number of the Journal. Much of the credit for the success of this meeting belongs to Mr. F. W. Gray of the staff of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. Our readers will be pleased to learn that Mr. Gray, who is an authority on the coal mining industry, is joining the staff of the publishers of this Journal and will be Associate Editor of the Journal. Mr. Gray will devote his attention chiefly to coal mining and to general mining in the Maritime Provinces.

In concluding his comments on the New Glasgow meeting, Mr. Gray makes some suggestions respecting meetings for consideration of members of the Canadian Mining Institute. We would be pleased to have comments on these suggestions, with a view to making the meetings more useful to members and the industry.

We have one suggestion to make. It is that some endeavor should be made to have, during the summer, local meetings in some of the mining camps, which would be made sufficiently attractive to bring men from other parts of the same province at least. For instance we might this summer have in Ontario visits to the gold and silver mining centres. To attend such meetings we would invite all interested in the mining industry.

## MINING.

Recent discussion among members of the Canadian Mining Institute makes it more than ever evident that the term "mining" is understood to mean very different things by different persons. Some of the metallurgists, notably those in the iron and steel industry, like to consider that mining is the proper term to apply to the taking of ore from the ground, while the term metallurgy should be applied to the processes for winning the metals from the ores after the mining has been done. This would be in accordance with test book definitions. The term "mining" is, however, commonly used in a much wider sense.

A mining company that limits its attention to the extraction of ore is the exception rather than the rule in Canada. For many years gold mining companies have considered it their business to produce metallic gold, but none have found it desirable to call themselves gold mining and metallurgical companies. The latter term is superfluous in this connection.

We have before us the report of the Nipissing Mining Company for the year 1918. The report shows that the company produced and shipped during the year silver bullion worth \$5,485,427, and residue and concentrates worth \$352,099. We find in this report a detailed analysis of the cost of treating the ore. We find remarks on metallurgical problems as well as underground development. We find a record of income and expenditure; of exploration, development, and production; of costs and profits. This is the ordinary business of a mining company. Metallurgy is a necessary branch of mining as the term mining is used in the mining business. Managing ability, common-sense and good salesmanship have, however, their place in this industry as in all others.

## OUTLOOK FOR COBALT SILVER MINES IS PROMISING.

The removal of restrictions on the price of silver seems likely to result in an advantage to producers. At the ruling prices there is assured successful operation of many mines at Cobalt. If the price goes much higher a market will be made for very low grade ore. This will lead to further exploration of supposedly worked-out properties. The Cobalt area has as many lives as a cat. It is particularly fortunate that the high prices have been obtainable during the period of high costs, for otherwise much silver that has been marketed would have remained in the ground. An excellent opportunity to get out an exceptionally large percentage of the silver in the Cobalt area is afforded by the present price of the metal. If, as seems possible, the price rises materially, an even more complete clean up than has ever seemed likely will be made. Cobalt has a wonderful record in many ways. It has made not only a very large production of silver, but it has done so at an unusually low cost. The demand for the metal seems likely to add further laurels to Cobalt, for the price warrants every attempt being made to increase the percentage of recovery.