

names are associated. Our attention has been drawn to the fact that Mr. James L. Hughes, Chief Inspector of Schools for Toronto, and Mr. J. Houston, superintendent of the Right of Way mine, have permitted their names to be used in connection with two recent flotations, one of which is considerably worse than the other. In all such instances as these the names of prominent men are of use to promoters merely as bait. And it is notorious that bait of this kind is most effective among doctors, school teachers, farmers, and laborers. Therefore a very grave responsibility devolves upon the shoulders of Mr. Hughes, who is an outstanding figure in educational circles, and upon Mr. Houston, who carries with him the prestige of a successful mine. In dealing with both of these gentlemen we wish to be frank. Of Mr. Hughes we say this: he is guilty of a major indiscretion when, as Chief Inspector of Schools, he uses his official standing to aid a precarious mining scheme. Mr. Houston's action we must deplore even more deeply.

In conclusion, it is obvious that the Ontario Companies Act is a dead letter. Not one of the mining advertisements published in Ontario papers conforms with the requirements of the Act. Not a few of the advertisements are direct breaches of the Act. Unless the Provincial authorities and decent mining men rise to the occasion at once, we shall have a recrudescence of such highway robberies as were perpetrated not long ago by Law and Russell.

RUSSIAN ASBESTOS.

It will be of interest to Canadian asbestos producers to learn that the principal asbestos deposits in the Urals have been sold to a German syndicate. The Korieff mine, the Pokleffsk mines, and the mines of Baron de Sukanton have passed into German hands. The Pokleffsk property includes the only mill operated in the whole region. The total annual output of the properties mentioned amounts to about 470,000 poods, or 8,460 short tons, which is more than eighty per cent. of Russia's whole yearly production.

This announcement gains an especial significance from the fact that Germany is the chief European consumer of Canadian asbestos.

A JAPANESE ENTERPRISE.

On Moresby Island, one of the Queen Charlotte group, lying off the shores of British Columbia, there is a promising copper mine. The ore deposit was discovered in May, 1906, by Mr. A. Ikeda, a Japanese merchant, who was at that time interested in the abalones fisheries. The history of the mine from that time to this is outlined by Mr. Ikeda on another page of this issue.

There are many unique features about the Ikeda mine. All of the employees, with the exception of five

white men, are Japanese. The company was floated in Kobe and Osaka, Japan. One of its principal officers is Mr. Owaya, who is a member of the Japanese Diet. The company name is "Awaya-Ikeda."

Several residences and other buildings have been erected on the Awaya-Ikeda property. The Japanese miners, however, live in the old abandoned stern-wheeler "Dawson," built by the C. P. R. for service on the Stikine River. The manager, Mr. Ikeda, occupies the charthouse.

The Ikeda mine began shipping ore early. It is now producing at the rate of fifty tons per day. Its owners expect great things, and, apparently, they have made a healthy start.

NEOTERIC NICKEL.

Here is something new under the sun. A valued correspondent, whose letter is not printable, beseeches us to smite error in high places. He encloses, for our delectation, a clipping from our venerable London contemporary. The clipping is a paragraph on the metal nickel, and the paragraph is part and parcel of an article of a series entitled "The Recognition of Minerals."

Mr. C. G. Moor, M.A., F.I.C., the author of the article, disarms criticism by asking for correction and suggestions as to "a better way of dealing with the subjects touched upon." By way of proving that this request is not a superfluity, he writes thus of nickel:

"One of the most important modern uses of nickel is to form the outer skin of rifle bullets. With modern rifles the rapidity of the bullet through the barrel is so great that a soft (lead) bullet would tend to strip and foul the rifling, and hence modern rifle bullets consist of a coating of nickel filled with lead.

The principal ore of nickel mined at the present time is garnierite (also called noumeite).

Garnierite (which has already been described under "Green Minerals") may also be greyish or nearly white, and sometimes a brown; to this variety the name "chocolite" has been given.

Garnierite is mined in New Caledonia and at the Sudbury Mines, in Canada. Noumeite is essentially a silicate of nickel with magnesium silicate.

The ore from Sudbury is silicate of nickel with some copper silicate. These are the two most important commercial ores."

One of the most important modern uses of education is to enable authors to ascertain a few facts about their chosen topics. Poets, lawyers, ladies, and promoters are privileged classes. But the man of science deals with ascertained facts. Ascertained facts concerning the occurrence of the nickel ores of Sudbury and New Caledonia are easily available.

Stern logic drives us to the conclusion that, since Mr. Moore is presumably neither a lawyer nor a pro-