

geological problems of Nova Scotia is the name of Fletcher's friend, E. R. Faribault, another faithful officer of the Survey. Although their spheres were quite distinct, both were animated by the same high purposes, and the names of both have been coupled in many a toast at the dinners of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia. And those names have stood and will continue to stand, as symbols of professional integrity and zeal, and lofty impersonal ambition for the work's sake.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.

A special note has just been sent by the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce to every publication in Canada. Enclosed with the note is a circular form from the Export Bureau of the Department. This form is being distributed to the members of all Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, and Trade Associations throughout the Dominion. When filled in and returned, the forms will give the Department the material for compiling an Index of Canadian Manufacturers, Exporters, and Producers. When this exhaustive compilation is complete it will be printed and sent to all the Canadian Trade Commissioners in the various parts of the world.

This is the first effort of the kind ever made in Canada. That it will facilitate trade is certain. But its value will depend upon its completeness. Printed forms are usually thrown into the waste-basket. Most of them deserve this fate. The Department's form, however, can be made a thing of value. The Department gives its service gratuitously. The amount of labour involved, so far as the Department is concerned, is immense. The one object of this labour is to open new channels of commerce for Canada. We believe that the proposed Index will be of large use to mine operators. For many Canadian minerals and mineral products there could be built up a considerable European demand. A ready source of reference, placed where the enquirer can see it with least trouble, will form an effective connecting link between the Canadian mineral producer and the foreign consumer. And no one can deny that this is badly needed.

THE NANAIMO DISASTER.

Thirty lives were lost in an explosion in No. 2 Mine Extension of the Wellington Colliery Nanaimo, B.C., on October 5.

No authentic details have been received before going to press. It is, therefore, superfluous to indulge in speculation as to the cause of the explosion.

But it is entirely appropriate to point out that upon the Government of British Columbia devolves the duty of making immediate and complete investigation of the circumstances leading up to the disaster. More than this, it is imperative that the present working conditions of the collieries of the province be fully ascertained.

We have grave doubts as to the efficiency (in numerical strength if in nothing else) of the present B. C. inspectorate. The duty of investigating such sad occurrences as this calls for ability of a high order. Moreover experience of a very special kind is required.

Modern research, both in America and Europe, has thrown much light upon the nature and causes of colliery explosions. To a large extent they are preventable. The government of British Columbia should lose not a moment in taking whatever steps are recognized as necessary by the most enlightened authorities of today. The snuffing out of thirty lives is a sufficiently poignant object lesson.

FAIRY GOLD.

A certain son of Belial is loose in the Lake of the Woods. Here, at Kenora, he has built him a plant wherein, by occult means, he renders from the ore gold not extractable by fire-assay nor by any other device known to man.

Indeed, if you wish to get some idea of what this gentleman at Kenora can do to a gold ore, all that is necessary is to multiply by three or four the results obtained by an ordinary or garden variety of assayer. And so convincing is the manner of this Kenora person that several mature citizens have not abstained from chipping in with him.

We are not unfamiliar with the kind of process that is being exploited in Kenora. There are many such varieties, based upon the alleged existence of "queen" gold, "latent" gold, etc., etc., and etc. But the real object of search in all these processes is another allotropic form of the metal named "fools'" gold.

Surely, surely, Kenora should have cut its wisdom teeth by this time!

ANOTHER CLAIMANT FOR THE POLE.

A third disputant has been added to the North Pole row. Our readers will notice in the letter of our Glace Bay correspondent a substantial claim put forward for the Dominion Coal Company. Peary's steamer, the "Roosevelt," was bunkered with Dominion coal, and our correspondent appears to fancy that this amounts to a lien upon the Pole. Is it possible that the coal was not paid for? Internal evidence, chiefly the fact that President Taft refused to accept the Pole as a gift, seems to strengthen this supposition. It will not surprise us if Mr. James Ross makes the next move in the game. In fact, if Mr. Ross has a valid excuse for attaching the Pole, we shall rise up and call him blessed. Obviously this is the only means of squelching Cook and Peary.

GOOD WORK.

The Temiscaming Mine Managers' Association, of Cobalt, has taken upon its shoulders the load of caring for the sick in that fever-stricken town. With mar-