

ASBESTOS MINING NOTES.

(From our Thetford Correspondent.)

The production of asbestos at Thetford Mines, the most important asbestos producing district in the world, has received a serious set back owing to the strike in two mines operated by the Asbestos Corporation of Canada. Men doing ordinary labour demand an increase from a minimum of \$4.00 per day to \$4.50 per day. The Asbestos Corporation has not seen fit to grant this increase, with the result that their Thetford Mines plants have been idle for three weeks. The Company contends that they gave their employees a 25 per cent increase last March and that in accordance with other products there is a tendency to lower prices for asbestos in 1921. The Company therefore feels that they cannot grant this increase of 50c. per day for ordinary labour and a proportionate increase for skilled labour. The men who are organized under a local union refuse to return to work until such time as their increase is granted. The other mines are still operating. One company has met the men's demand and is paying \$4.50 per day. Another company is paying \$4.25 and still another company pays \$4.00. Owing to a shortage of labour throughout the year, it is generally believed that production for 1920 will be considerably lower than the previous year. The present strike will, of course, lower the tonnage of asbestos crude and fibre for 1920. It is generally known that the demand for raw asbestos is far greater than the present supply and with a drop in production, one may reasonably expect higher prices.

One of the large companies in Thetford Mines has recently given a large contract for stripping to the Fraser Brace Company. It is understood that there is a considerable deposit of asbestos-bearing rock in this district, hitherto undeveloped, which has been prospected. The results obtained have evidently been good enough to warrant a large contract for stripping.

Hon. Geo. R. Smith, General Manager and Vice-President of the Bell Asbestos Mines has been recently confined to his bed, but we are glad to report that he is again attending to his business.

Sir John Carson, General Manager of the Consolidated Asbestos Limited is at present in England.

Mr. E. E. Spafford, Manager of the Quebec Asbestos Corporation, East Broughton, has taken a motor trip to New York. We trust he has escaped the snow storm that is prevalent at the mines.

We are just in receipt of the monthly Market letter issued by the Asbestos & Mineral Corporation, 17 Battery Place, New York, who are large Asbestos dealers. They predict higher prices for 1921, and advise the trade to stock up in advance.

Mr. C. Bindman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Crude Asbestos & Fibre Corporation Limited, Thetford Mines, will be in Montreal shortly.

Mr. T. H. Crabtree, Asbestos Inspector has just returned from a visit to England.

FLOTATION SAVED THE SITUATION.

To the Editor, "Canadian Mining Journal."

With Copper at 15 cents and every mineral industry languishing—cash customers being scarce and metal markets doleful it may not be amiss to emphasize what "Flotation" made possible, even in these "nothing-doing" days.

The very great value of the flotation process evolved under the aegis of Mr. John Ballot, of Minerals Separation, should find a larger appreciation and a clearer

understanding during these times of falling prices, but high costs of production, than when metals were high and buyers plentiful. I believe I am safe in saying, without fear of intelligent fair-minded disproof, that if the use of flotation processes in general were to be discontinued to-day by "all users"—by licensees as well as by those who are said to be infringing or illegally using them—not one of the great sulphide-copper and zinc mines in Canada and the United States could afford to operate under prevailing conditions. Flotation—and flotation alone—is saving them, and making it possible for 90 per cent of that class of mine to live and keep men employed.

Regardless of controversy, and malversations, it is to the originators of flotation that other than precious metal mines survive and are earning profits. Defamation of flotation scientists and capitalists has obscured the facts. Quite recently recoveries by means of flotation have saved the situation at more than one Canadian metallurgical center—and it seems to be quite in order to enter of record these few words of commendation for the much-maligned who accomplished this.

Yours truly,

Montreal.

ALEXANDER GRAY.

O. B. BUSH, PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE, ATLIN, B. C.

Mr. O. B. Bush, the well known mining man is to enter the election contest for the British Columbia parliament at the election to be held December 1st. Mr. Bush will contest the Atlin District. The people interested in the mining industry in the Atlin district are anxious that a practical mining man represent them, and have asked Mr. Bush to enter the contest, and he has consented to do so. Mr. Bush is a staunch supporter of the present government.

Being an active mine operator in the North, and prominent as the discover of the Premier Mine, Mr. Bush without doubt will be a good man to represent the district.

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