

clear. The steps to be taken can, we believe, be made not unfair to either East or West.

Meanwhile there would be no harm in a public investigation of railway freight rates.

NOVA SCOTIAN TUNGSTEN MINING.

In this number of the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL will be found a brief description of the tungsten deposits that are now being opened at Scheelite, Halifax County, Nova Scotia. The article referred to is meant to be as general as possible. At this stage it is unwise to be too specific.

A visit to Scheelite is instructive. Here is the first recent instance of an enterprise entirely Nova Scotian in discovery, exploitation, and organization. The discovery was made by two local prospectors, Messrs. Reynolds and Currie, aided by Mr. A. L. McCallum. The financial organization was undertaken by Mr. H. C. Borden, a brother of Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Federal Opposition. If present indications may be taken at their face value, the enterprise will be successfully conducted by the present operators. It is most gratifying, in any case, to witness the rare sight of Nova Scotians giving tangible evidence of their confidence in themselves and in their country. It is also gratifying to learn that the intimate knowledge of the mineral deposits of Nova Scotia possessed by local prospectors has been recognized. The Nova Scotian prospector may not be able to write technical papers, but he has a remarkable nose for ore.

That Mr. Faribault's diagnosis of the field is correct constitutes another feather in his already well decorated cap. Mr. Faribault's advice gave direction to the work from the first. Without the counsel of this distinguished official of the Geological Survey the mining problems might not yet have been solved.

We note with pleasure that the mine is not being over-equipped. Thus costly errors are to be avoided. The positive advantages of cheap mining, cheap and efficient labour, easy access, and ample territory wherein to work and prospect, are all evident. All in all, the mining camp of Scheelite has had an auspicious beginning and promises good things. When it is remembered that the concentrates will be the equivalent of high grade Cobalt silver ore, and that the ore itself is ideally susceptible of treatment, a standard of comparison is gained.

We shall watch with keen interest the development of Scheelite. If it lives up to our expectations, Nova Scotia will possess an industry that will attract much more than local attention.

PUBLICITY.

We are often filled with shame because of the paucity of general mining news in the Canadian press. It is quite true that columns will often be devoted to spectacular finds or to special promotions. But regular mining news service there is none.

Coal, iron, and steel outputs are reported sporadically from the east. Shipments from Cobalt and Gowganda are published weekly. Southwestern British Columbia ore shipments are likewise reported, and the statements of ore received at the smelters of these districts are made public. Apart from a few coal mines, the above mentioned branches of the industry are about all from which the public hear with any degree of regularity.

For instance, from the asbestos concerns of Quebec only annual statements are issued, and these are by no means complete. From the large copper-nickel enterprises of Ontario no regular statements or reports are forthcoming. And so on through the list. Numberless small concerns are hidden in perpetual obscurity.

This is decidedly not as it should be, and it behooves the powers that be to bring about a change. Statistics, provided they are timely, complete, and accurate, have a distinct commercial value. If belated, incomplete, and inaccurate, they are worse than useless. The one means of securing accuracy and completeness is to insist upon weekly returns from each and every considerable producer of coal, of ore, and of metallurgical products. Any attempt to collect figures merely from year to year is wrong in principle and uncertain in results.

The remedy for this condition in Canada lies in the hands of each province. The Mining Department of each is capable of bringing pressure to bear upon companies operating under its jurisdiction. Pressure, however, may not and should not be necessary. At worst, a system of weekly open returns may not be welcome by mine operators, but we are confident that their objections will not be long-lived.

When one examines the analytical returns made public by the Rand, one has no difficulty in perceiving their value. The public, kept fully informed as to the capacity of each plant, the value of ore mined and of reserves, has its interest constantly inspired. The direct effects of this publicity are to guide investors, to improve mining practice, and to localize and minimize waste. The operator whose reports and returns are read by thousands is not prone to careless work. He is stimulated to his highest and best.

We have spoken before of the splendid isolation of the mining industry. That isolation costs money. That isolation, also, would disappear if the public were taken into the confidence of the operator. If in nothing else, surely in the item of outputs bona fide mining companies gain nothing and lose much by the unjustifiable policy of silence.

THE EXPLOSIBILITY OF COAL DUST.

It is not our intention here to discuss the question of the explosibility of coal dust. What we wish to point out is that some of the factors in the case have not yet been determined, and that, therefore, final pronouncements are not in order.

At the Pittsburg Testing Station, erected by the Technologic Branch of the United States Geological Survey,