

during the year. It is to be regretted that a very large number of these promotions, ostensibly for mining purposes, have very little of an industrial character about them. They are but the merest "frothy bubbles of a speculative spirit," and will only result in loss to those who have been so unwise as to venture their money in them.

As in former years, the aim of the present edition of the MANUAL has been to present in a handily arranged form information respecting the companies and mines doing business in the various Provinces of the Dominion. The bulk of the data has been furnished by courtesy of the managers and secretaries, while free use has been made of the Reports of the various Departments of Mines and of the Geological Survey.

Special thanks are due to Mr. J. Geo. Rutherford, M. A., M. E., for valuable matter respecting the Pictou Coal Field and the drawing of the excellent map which accompanies this section of the work; to Mr. William Blakemore, M. E., for particulars of the progress of coal mining in Cape Breton; and to Mr. T. W. Gibson, of the Bureau of Mines, Toronto, for notes respecting the gas and oil industries of Ontario.

The large number of illustrations that form a special feature of this edition will, it is hoped, serve as an object lesson of the progress of mining in the Dominion, and help to stimulate the interest of investors in our resources as a field for remunerative investment.

OTTAWA, 1st July, 1897.

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