

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXIX

TORONTO, September 15th, 1918.

No. 18

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada.

Published 1st and 15th of each month by the
MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office 263-5 Adelaide Street, West, Toronto
Branch Office 600 Read Bldg., Montreal

Editor: **REGINALD E. HORE, B.A. (Toronto).**

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Single copies of current issue, 15 cents. Single copies of other than current issue, 25 cents.

The Mines Publishing Co. aims to serve the mining industry of Canada by publication of reliable news and technical articles. This company publishes the Canadian Mining Journal twice a month and the Canadian Mining Manual once a year.

ADVERTISING COPY.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th for issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

ADVERTISING.

The Canadian Mining Journal covers the Canadian mining field. Ask for advertising rates.

CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter, April 23rd, 1908, at the post office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879."

CONTENTS, SEPTEMBER 15.

Editorial—

The Advisory Council's Report	311
The Search for Platinum in British Columbia	313
The Manufacture of Silica Brick, by H. Le Chatelier and B. Bogitch	314
Ferromolybdenum, by E. N. Keeney	318
Ontario's Metalliferous Production, First Half Year 1918	319
Personal and General	321
Special Correspondence	322
Markets	327

There has just been published the report of the Department of Mines, of Quebec, on mining operations during 1917. A preliminary report by Mr. Denis, published in March, gave a summary of the production during 1917. The report includes information on asbestos, copper and sulphur ores, iron, chromite, zinc, lead, molybdenite, gold, silver, magnesia, mica, kaolin, antimony, graphite, mineral paints, building materials, silica, peat and coal. Particularly interesting and useful are the accounts of development of "war minerals." Quebec has important deposits of chromite, molybdenite, magnesite and pyrites, and these deposits are being worked very successfully, and Quebec is making an important contribution of minerals for munitions.

The Department of Mines has just published two reports that will be of special interest to those engaged in developing mineral resources of Northern Manitoba. Memoir 105; The Amisk-Athapapuskow Lake District, by E. L. Bruce, and the Summary Report, 1917, Part D, by E. L. Bruce, F. J. Alcock, J. R. Marshall and W. A. Johnston, are full of information on the mineral resources of Manitoba.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL'S REPORT.

There has recently been much talk over proposals to establish in Canada, institutes like the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh and the Bureau of Standards, Washington. There can be no doubt that these institutes are doing very valuable work in the United States and that we should have had similar ones here years ago.

Approval of the proposal to establish a central research institute in Canada is contained in the report of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research just published. According to the press despatch which contains this announcement, the Advisory Council has discussed the matter at great length for the last nine months and the chairman has, on several occasions, consulted collectively and individually the heads of the various technical bureaux in Washington on the subject and a majority of the members of the Council visited Washington to discuss the matter.

Apparently the Advisory Council has profited by its own preaching. When first appointed, some of the members took great delight in talking about subjects of which they obviously knew little. If they had had the good sense to consult the technical heads of Canadian bureaux, as they have since done, those of Washington, they would probably not have been so careless in their statements. Fortunately, they were correct in their main argument: that Canada will benefit by paying more attention to the application of research to industry. They have themselves demonstrated that research is good for Advisory Councils.

The Advisory Council has important work to do and it has the assistance of men who can do good work. If the Council has the ability to use to any appreciable extent the volunteer service that is represented on its various advisory committees, it should be an important factor in industrial development. While we have not been able to give the Advisory Council any great praise for its statements concerning industrial research in Canada, we still have hopes that it may eventually fill the place it occupies. If it can carry on a successful campaign for the establishment in Canada of research bureaux it will deserve our thanks, particularly if it can do so without spreading misinformation concerning the mining and metallurgical industries.

The Advisory Council, if we may judge from the publicity given to the subject, evidently considers its most important accomplishment to be the exploitation of the lignite deposits of Saskatchewan. On the advice of the Council, the Dominion Government and the Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan are spending a large sum of money on an experimental briquetting plant at Estevan, Manitoba. If this plant proves to be a commercial success the Council, together with the Commission of Conservation which has advocated the