

temporary, the "Mining and Scientific Press," edited by Mr. T. A. Rickard, has published a great quantity of information about the process. Other technical journals have also devoted much space to flotation. At meetings of mining societies, in recent years, the subject has been much discussed. Practically every mine manager has given careful consideration to the possibility of treating some of the products of his mine by flotation and those in charge of concentrating plants in all parts of the country have been using or experimenting with the process. Flotation has been successfully used for several years and there is an abundant literature concerning the process and the litigation that has accompanied its use. Our readers are well aware that the successful application of the process is due to British and American metallurgists. They will therefore be somewhat amazed to read in the "World" that "for this process the world is indebted to Germany." The "World" could not have expected to fool mining men by this statement. We naturally conclude that the misinformation is for public consumption.

It is unfortunate for the Canadian mining industry that the flotation process is patented and it is particularly unfortunate that the Minerals Separation corporations have a reputation for "hoggishness." The validity of the patents has been questioned in the United States, but there is no use blinding oneself to the fact that recent decisions in the United States are in favor of the Minerals Separation corporations. On the other hand, there is every reason to believe that the Minerals Separation corporations have been unreasonable in their demands, particularly as to contracts in reference to discoveries made by the users of the process.

In our opinion the Minerals Separation corporations deserve much of the criticism that they receive. We hope that the American corporation will fail to get favorable decisions in Canadian courts if it attempts to prove infringements here. In the United States, Minerals Separation corporations have proven too selfish and arbitrary for the good of the industry and they do not deserve the good wishes that they would be otherwise entitled to.

We hope that the decisions in Canadian courts, if the claims are pressed, will be so favorable to Canadian operators that even Mr. T. A. Rickard may be able to commend them. But we hope also that the public will be properly informed as to the facts and that the newspapers will not continue to mislead their readers. The object striven for commends itself to us. We are not satisfied with the means.

We do not think that many of our readers will wish us to accuse the men who control the Minerals Separation North American Corporation of being Germans or German agents. It would undoubtedly simplify matters if they were. We have, however, no good reason to suppose that they are. They have been in bad company and they will suffer for it. They have been

greedy and this will not be forgotten. We do not believe, however, that the American corporation is German or that it wishes to retard production.

The character of the campaign being carried on by the "Northern Miner" is indicated by an editorial published in the "Northern Miner" of October 6th, 1917. Our readers will understand the editorial better when they are informed that the telegram sent to the "Northern Miner" has been carelessly copied by that paper. Our copy reads as follows: "Former agents of M. S. Co., German. Corporation itself British. No evidence to contrary."

For those who may be unfamiliar with the organizations referred to, we may state here that Minerals Separation, Ltd., was registered as a British corporation in England in 1903. In 1913 the Minerals Separation American Syndicate, Ltd., was registered in England to acquire the rights of the Minerals Separation, Ltd., in North America. This British corporation's agents in New York when the war began were Dr. S. Gregory and the American branch of the German firm of Beer, Sondheimer & Co.

It was, of course, to the latter firm and not to Dr. Gregory, that we referred to in our telegram.

The "Northern Miner" seems to be of the opinion that the American corporation, formed in December, 1916, is represented by Beer, Sondheimer & Co. Such a belief might explain the distortion of our message. We think that the "Northern Miner" is mistaken in its belief; but we are willing to assume that it has such. The space which is devoted by the "Northern Miner" to prove that Beer, Sondheimer & Co. is a German corporation indicates that it really believes that that is the important point. For our part we have never had any reason to doubt that these former agents of the British corporation are German.

The "Northern Miner" editorial of October 6th, in part, follows:

"When The Toronto World published its first article regarding flotation an error appeared to the effect that Minerals Separation North American Corporation was stated to be the agents of Beer, Sondheimer & Co. This, of course, was putting the cart before the horse. Mr. R. E. Hore, editor of the Canadian Mining Journal, here appeared on the scene. A bold defender of Minerals Separation, he tried desperately to lobby in the interests of this company, but his success thus far has been unnoticed.

"On hearing that Mr. Hore was busying himself in this matter, The Northern Miner wired him as follows:

"If you are sure M. S. Co. is a British concern wire your proof to Northern Miner. Many mine managers in Cobalt think otherwise."

"On the following day we received this reply:

"Former agents of M. S. Co., German corporation, itself British, no evidence to contrary."

"In view of the facts this reply proves that Mr. Hore did not know what he was talking about. In the first instance, Beer, Sonheimer and Company are not former agents, but are the agents to-day. And in the