

From all that can be learned at present, the Portland Canal region affords one of the best opportunities known in Canada for profitable mining.

THE TYEE COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED,—A CORRECTION.

We greatly regret that there appeared in our issue of January 1st, 1910, in the review of mining in the province of British Columbia in 1908, by Mr. George A. Ohren, a statement that "the Tyee Copper Company is reported in considerable debt."

The facts, as stated officially, are that this company, in addition to the large value of its properties, smelting plant, and stores, has available a cash reserve fund invested in Trustees' Stocks, of about \$350,000 and its financial status is so well known that its credit has never been questioned.

We deeply regret this statement, which was obviously based on misleading information, and we take the first opportunity of making this correction.

The good name of the Tyee Company throughout the Western country for prompt payment, and for honourable treatment of all parcels of ore sent to their customs smelting works, is so well and favourably known, that we trust the inaccuracy of our inadvertent statement did not cause a moment's embarrassment.

THE COST OF LIVING.

The Wall Street Journal, in an exceedingly sane and timely editorial, alludes to the "growing division of labour and specialization of functions," as a distinguishing tendency of modern commercial life. Our contemporary glances at the burden carried by each unit of population in the highly organized city of New York. According to the recent census report, the annual per capita civic expenditure for every man, woman, and child in New York, is \$23.84; or practically \$120 for a family of five. In addition to these astonishing figures, the per capita Federal Government expenses amount to about \$8, or \$40 per year for a family of five.

The Journal remarks that, while civilized nations are far from the unhappy state of Rome, which broke down largely because the burden of taxation stifled agriculture, yet conditions are becoming serious. In short, it is the object of the editorial to indicate that the multifarious and increasingly differentiated functions assumed by governments, whilst they may have a high ethical value, are uneconomic. How far they can be multiplied, is one of the questions that affects the grand problem of the cost of living.

THE DAVIS HANDBOOK OF COBALT.

Cobalt still looms large on the financial horizon. Its importance shews no sign of waning. The number of investors and others, interested directly and indirectly in the camp, is daily increasing. Meanwhile there

has been created a demand for some ready and complete book of reference covering the Cobalt district.

Such a book is soon to be published. Its compiler, Mr. H. P. Davis, is one of the pioneers of Cobalt. For three years he has been collecting material. His book, "The Davis Handbook of the Cobalt Silver District," is a compendium of all information necessary to guide the investor and to instruct the general reader. Following a sketch of the geology, mining methods, ore markets, etc., come full statistical statements and an exhaustive directory of all companies operating, or incorporated to operate, in the Cobalt district.

We have no hesitation in commending the Davis Handbook. It will be found reliable, exact, and perfectly unbiased. On another page, we publish part of an advance chapter from this volume.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is gratifying to Canadians to learn that to Dr. A. P. Coleman, of Toronto University, has been awarded, by the Royal Geological Society, the Murchison Medal for distinguished geological investigation. The honour is well deserved.

The Le Roi Mining Company faces a net loss of \$47,150 on its operations for last year. Its new exploration scheme includes about 35,000 feet of diamond drilling. Special attention is to be paid to the 1,650 foot level, where good ore was encountered last year.

The School of Mining, Kingston, Ont., is advertising for applications for the position of Assistant Professor of Geology. Applications will be received until March 15th, 1910. Particulars are set forth in our advertising section.

In the deep mines of the Rand, drill sharpening by means of electric furnaces installed underground has been introduced.

The peat electric station at Skabersjo, Sweden, which has been quietly worked more than five years, is supplied by a small bog of 37 acres, with peat averaging five feet in depth, and in this source is estimated to have fuel for about 30 years. The electric current is yielded by two generators of 150 horsepower each, which are coupled direct to two gas engines, receiving the peat gas from two Korting suction-gas producers. The current is conducted two or three miles to Svedala, and is used for lighting the streets, and for power for several small industries. The price to consumers is only about one-half cent per horsepower hour. Tar is the only by-product saved, but the experiments now in progress at different places indicate that the sulphate of ammonia and other by-products recovered in a somewhat larger station—one of a few thousand horsepower—will be so profitable that they will pay all expenses, leaving the entire power production as clear gain, or a product costing nothing.