

Rand mines, during 1910, distributed a total of £9,115,500 in dividends. This enormous sum includes dividend payments from 45 companies. The largest dividend came from the Crown Mines. It amounted to £1,128,126. The rates of payment ranged all the way from 5 per cent. to 150 per cent.

Correspondence

THE EXPLOSION AT BELLEVUE COAL MINE, ALBERTA.

Editor, CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL.

Sir,—While on other pages of the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL of January 1st you referred to the loss of life in an Albertan colliery and the duty of the Alberta Government to provide for the family of Fred Alderson, who sacrificed his life to save that of another miner, you also, in two parts of the same issue, left it to be inferred that the disaster occurred in British Columbia. Knowing that you have from time to time freely accorded the British Columbia Department of Mines credit and praise for having taken the lead in its efforts to safeguard the lives of miners employed in its coal mines, I am well aware that you would not intentionally leave room for the conclusion that there was or is any blame attachable to that department for the lamentable loss of life that took place at Bellevue last month, yet I venture to think it may be well to make it quite clear that the following item, taken from your General Mining News of the above-mentioned date, lacked the specific information that the disaster took place in Alberta, not in British Columbia. I quote the news item as you printed it:—

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

"Fernie, December 13.—Six of the Slav victims of the Bellevue disaster were buried here in one grave, and the body of Fred Alderson will be interred at Hosmer to-morrow."

"It is a significant fact in connection with the disaster that a Government mine inspector viewed the mine for escaping gas three days before the fatality, and posted a notice to the effect that the timbering and ventilation were good, and that there was no gas.

"The Miners' Union had asked that an inspection of the mine be made and told Inspector Sterling, it is stated, that there were volumes of gas in the mine. It is thought that there is yet one unrecovered body."

You will probably agree that in the foregoing there is absolutely nothing to indicate that the disaster and suggested inefficient mine examination were in another Province, for British Columbia is the only Province mentioned—hence this letter.

Separately, I send you some particulars of the late Fred Alderson, who for the benefit of a strange miner—not even a working comrade in the mine in which he was employed, but an utter stranger in a mine in another province, to which he had hastened on the call of the common humanity that prompts miners to deeds of heroism—took the grave risks which cost him his life and left his wife a widow, and his children, orphans. You will note, too, that the British Columbia Government was prompt, first to send its mine-rescue apparatus to a province that had neglected to provide any, and, next, to contribute money for the relief of the distress of Alderson's widow and orphans.

E. JACOBS.

Victoria, B.C., January 13, 1911.

ABSTRACT OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE CHIBOU- GAMOU REGION.

I.—Introduction.

OBJECT OF THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION:

The present investigation was designed to obtain the fullest information from a single season's field operations regarding the natural resources, especially from the mining standpoint, of what has been called the "Chibougamou Mining Region," with special reference to the asbestos and gold deposits already discovered there.

Ever since the first mineral discoveries in this district in 1903, the Government of the Province of Quebec had been repeatedly and strongly urged either to undertake the building of a railway to Chibougamou or to give such substantial assistance that private enterprise would be induced to undertake its construction. Before however, committing themselves to any policy or definite line of action, which in any case would involve the expenditure of a very large amount of public money, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Mines, on the recommendation of the newly appointed Superintendent of Mines, determined to obtain the judgment of those who compose the present Chibougamou Commission, not only as to the real value of the mineral discoveries already made, but also their opinion as to the future mining possibilities of this region.

With this object in view the present Commissioners examined in detail all of the prospects and mining development work which they could find or concerning which they had any information. In addition a careful and critical geological examination was made of the whole district in order to make possible the preparation of a geological map which would show the relations of the various mineral deposits studied. The Commissioners, therefore, in the present report, aim to answer the question, "Is the construction of a railway at present justified by reason of the mineral discoveries already made and partially developed?" And in the second place to furnish in detail the results of the various surveys and examinations arising out of this investigation.

PERSONNEL OF THE CHIBOUGAMOU COMMISSION:

As it was desired that the verdict of the Commissioners should be as conclusive and authoritative as possible, it was decided that Dr. Alfred E. Barlow, Special Lecturer in Economic Geology at McGill University, and late of the Geological Survey of Canada, should act as Chairman, while Professor J. C. Gwillim, Professor of Mining at Queen's University, Kingston, and Mr. E. R. Faribault, of the Geological Survey of Canada, should