

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A Maine naturalist recently questioned the authenticity of the story of an attack on a man by a wildcat. He wrote for verification, saying that if true it is the first case of the kind known to scientific men. What ignorance of mining!

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Toronto's city engineer says it will cost one hundred and sixty thousand dollars and the labor of several thousand men to shovel snow from eight hundred miles of sidewalks. On the other hand, it will cost the individual citizen ten minutes, with a bonus of fresh air. Time being money, the citizen will be allowed to continue his responsibility. Money likewise being time, he may count himself as duly paid, keeping the change.

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The circle of civic inducements to manufacturers is being narrowed. In the Ontario Legislature the other day it was made clear that the provincial government is not favorably disposed to the municipal bonusing of new industries. Generally speaking, it leads to evil. The manufacturer is usually willing to pit one town against the other. Frequently he gets a better bargain than deserved. The municipal bonus often brings only temporary gain.

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When illegal transactions flitted around Montreal like a mosquito plague, they sometimes bit as deeply as the winged annoyance. Many civic rulers knew that the recent election would close to them the doors of the city hall. With this mournful vision some quick-change salary adjustments were made. Increases were granted evidently with the idea of having friends in court. The trick was unsuccessful. Civic employees have now undergone a sort of "He-loves-me-he-loves-me-not" experience. The new Board of Control, behind closed doors, took their pruning knives and readjusted salaries according to merit, commonsense and honor. It may be hard lines for some, but dishonesty is seldom victorious. Incidentally, it seems that Montreal's guardians mean to run the city on a business and not a commission basis.

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Much is heard regarding the dictatorial spirit of labor. As pleasing relief come two recent occurrences. A woodworking factory was recently destroyed by fire in St. John, N.B. Forty men, working inside, offered their labor for two weeks and forty men on outside construction, for one week, in both cases without pay, in order that the industry might be rebuilt. It was a mutually advantageous arrangement, but sometimes even that factor counts little. A well-known copper mining company in British Columbia is considering two profit-sharing plans. One is that the employees shall have the right to subscribe at par for a certain amount of the treasury stock, and the other is that a scale of wages be put into force which shall be adjustable to the price of copper. These examples of give-and-take between employer and employee are happy signs of the times.

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The difference between mining men and imaginative mining promoters was strongly emphasized at the sessions of the twelfth annual convention of the Canadian Mining Institute. The latter were absent. The gathering at Toronto this week comprised technically trained men, thinking little, if at all, of the speculative canker, and earnest for recognition of the mining industry's vital importance to Canada's development. In its well-wishers, the conference inspired a desire that the Canadian Mining Institute should not only continue its good work in constructive mining policy, but should also adopt a mailed fist attitude to punch out of the situation the unscrupulous promoter. He harms not only the investor, ultimately scaring capital, but also gives a tarnished appearance to

the industry. The Canadian Institute must show its muscles. Its particular virtue, modesty, has almost become a minor vice.

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The relative jurisdiction of the Dominion and the provinces in respect to company incorporation is the important subject to be discussed at a conference of the federal and provincial administrations. The convention has been called for Tuesday March 29th, and will be held in Ottawa. Notices have already been sent to the various provinces. This action has probably been taken, partly because of the difficulties constantly occurring in connection with company promotion in Canada and partly as the result of criticism at home and abroad of Canadian methods of incorporation. In discussing this matter in these columns last October, it was suggested that the Secretary of State and the Assistant Secretary, who did so much to modernize Ontario Company laws, should see their way to reform company legislation generally throughout Canada. "The burden of work need not be on Ottawa alone. The provincial secretaries could continue as they are, the only change being the administering of the same medicine to all companies, however chartered. A conference of those officials chiefly concerned could undoubtedly formulate a better system than exists." Such a conference is now to be held. Whether the convention will consider inter-provincial and federal relations in their connection with company incorporation is not of the province. The State is not of the least of the most of the of obtaining the of financing and taxation. Unattractive as capital is also leaves loopholes for dishonesty. Spring-cleaning in promotion circles is impossible until the law stands behind the cleaners.

FROM PAPERS AND PEOPLE.

Meanwhile, the Washington Government, hard pressed by the general agitation against high prices, is alarmed at the prospect of being compelled by the Payne Tariff Law to impose maximum duties on Canadian imports on April 1st, and is now approaching the Canadian Government in a rather humble way. The incident is instructive.—London Economist.

We want the Canadian market—it is vital to us—but if we are to get it we must leave off crying for participation in the preference, and must hold our position in it by honest dealing.—Barbados Agricultural Reporter.

As regards the British Budget, one party saw only destruction ahead, the other party predicted that the rejection of the Budget would be followed by a grave monetary crisis; some very imaginative persons saw a 10 per cent. bank rate. I need hardly say that both sides have grossly exaggerated the case.—Sir Edgar Speyer, at Toronto.

Canada is growing so rapidly in wealth and population that she will have to offer very soon a highly valuable market. Therefore, it is most natural that Germany should recognize the mistake she has made and endeavour to obtain the best terms she can from the victor.—London Statist.

When Canada has fifty million people against England's forty million, she will be strong enough to make a potential position, and should become a nation.—Judge Longley at the new Canadian Club at Quebec.

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS.

The following are the Cobalt ore shipments, in pounds, for the week ended February 25th:—Millerette Sil., 51,000; King Edward, 43,177; Kerr Lake, 300,005; La Rose, 212,565; Nipissing, 126,837; Crown Reserve, 61,153; City of Cobalt, 64,000; Silver Cliff, 66,010; total, 924,747 pounds, or 462 tons. The total shipments since January 1st are now 7,882,830 pounds, or 3,941 tons.

In 1904 the camp produced 158 tons, valued at \$316,217; in 1905, 2,144 tons, valued at \$1,473,196; in 1906, 5,129 tons, valued at \$3,900,000; in 1907, 14,040 tons; in 1908, 25,700 tons, in 1909, 29,751 tons.

The Imperial Bank will erect a new building in Kamloops, B.C.