

mine fires for 5.32%; falling down shaft, 8.20%, and objects falling down shaft, 4.15%. These are the most serious causes. In addition to State inspection and Federal control of explosives, the most important work being done in the direction of prevention is the publicity being given in the form of detailed information collected and distributed by the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

TEMISKAMING ANNUAL REPORT

Few mining companies have been such storm centres as has been the Temiskaming Mining Company, Limited. Its pugnacious president, Mr. Burr E. Cartwright, however much he has been criticized, and however much he may have merited that criticism, is certainly a generalissimo of no mean ability.

The authorized, and issued capital of the company is \$2,500,000. Including \$300,000 distributed during the calendar year 1912, the mine has yielded altogether \$1,309,155.56 to its shareholders. Last year's net earnings amounted to \$413,615.87, of which sum \$300,000 went to dividend payments and the remainder was carried forward as balance, making the total surplus \$590,591.71. The production of silver for the year was 1,242,243 ounces, an increase of only 28,489 ounces over the previous year. One noteworthy item is the production of 16,037 pounds of copper, the first commercial shipment of that metal from Cobalt.

A substantial lessening of operating costs is reported by the general manager, Mr. Norman R. Fisher. The cost of breaking and raising 31,449 tons of ore was \$166,256, or \$5.28 per ton, whereas the average cost during the year 1911 was \$6.85.

Milling costs also were lowered. In 1911, the cost per ton of ore treated was \$1.99; while during 1912 the average cost was reduced to \$1.72. Mill recovery was improved, being brought up from 80% to 82.1%. In brief, the technical history of the year appears to be eminently satisfactory save for the fact that no statements, beyond vague references to promising new developments, have been made as to ore reserves. The mine maps indicate in a general way that the mine's future must depend very largely upon the results of prospecting. The ore available may not be sufficient to maintain production for more than half a year. On the other hand, the history of the Temiskaming encourages the belief that prospecting will be handsomely rewarded. And it is doubtful whether the development of regular ore reserves is commercially practicable.

The North Dome mine, the Temiskaming Company's property in South Porcupine, is dismissed in one brief paragraph. Hence there is no basis furnished for discussion.

Mr. Fisher deserves much credit for the workmanlike way in which the report has been prepared. His tabulation of costs is admirable. Both the engineer and the printer have taken pride in turning out a good job.

CONCERNING THE BARTLETT.

We have before us one of the most extraordinarily inaccurate mining reports that it has ever been our painful duty to peruse. The document purports to deal with the Bartlett mine, Gowganda, Ont., and to it is affixed, in typewriting, the name "H. Brian Pearson." From beginning to end it is a strange medley of inaccuracy and misstatement.

The author, in his opening paragraph, informs us that the T. & N. O. Railway will, in the near future, be completed to within one and a half miles of the mine. This, we fancy, will be news to the Government and to Chairman Englehart. This, however, is merely a "marker." One statement reaches the ultimate of futility. "It is noticeable," runs the report, "that in each instance when either nickel or cobalt bloom obtains at the surface, a shoot of rich silver ore has been found by sinking." Nothing more completely misleading could be put in words. Only an incompetent or a knave could write such nonsense.

It is needless to quote further. Mr. Pearson's report is a masterpiece of silliness and distortion. But, futile as the report may seem to those who know the region, it is unfortunately true that the great mass of outsiders can readily be deceived. In other words, reports like this are mischievous and dangerous. They discredit the district and the profession.

If Mr. H. Brian Pearson be actually responsible for this "pipe dream," he should certainly be visited with condign punishment should he venture to call at Gowganda in the future.

EDITORIAL NOTES

That poor dear Mrs. Ella Rawles Reader has at last come to grief. As promoter of the Calumet Metals Co. she won the confidence of not a few of our wealthy men. She sowed the wind, and now the inveigled shareholders are reaping the whirlwind.

Mr. W. A. Caldecott has calculated and tabulated the weight of tube mill pebble loads for 22-foot mills of diameters ranging from 54 inches to 63 inches. The loads are graduated by inches from 12 inches above the axis to 12 inches below, and the weight of a cubic foot of pebbles is taken as 105 lbs. For a 54-inch mill the maximum load is thus 14.21 tons of pebbles, the minimum 4.16 tons; while for a 63-inch mill the corresponding figures are 18.42 tons and 6.58 tons.

A recent writer comes to the conclusion that, to avoid errors in sampling and assaying ores that carry coarse gold, certain precautions are effective. When, for instance, relatively few grains of unusually coarse gold are present, the sample should not be put through