

previously in these columns, our opinion is that the past history of the unions should not be allowed to stand in the way of a proper understanding now. It is well to know something of that history; but it is folly to allow it to obscure the present situation. The miners should have full opportunity for expressing their views.

They should also be made to realize that they cannot expect to take all the profits of the industry; that it is essential to the life of the industry that some operators should be very successful; that no new properties would be developed unless someone attracted by the chance of winning a prize risks his money in exploration. If he is successful there are many new jobs for miners, and if he fails the miner is not asked to pay the cost. Neither the miner nor the mining companies can be depended on to furnish capital for the development of new areas. Some do their share and some do not. Much of the money for the development of new areas must come from other sources, from those who are willing to venture in the hope of making big profits. Many a man who will take chances himself will not ask shareholders of companies in which he is interested to take the same chances. Some who have been exceptionally lucky once are content for the future to leave the making of mines to others, recognizing that lightning rarely strikes twice in the same place. No new discovery is developed without risk to those who supply the money, and development depends largely on the faith of the venturesome in the richness of our natural resources and in their knowledge that the profits are in some instances very large.

Under the circumstances, we cannot agree with the same union official when he implies that those investing money expect to shift the burden on their workmen if a good prospect fails to make a paying mine. That is exactly contrary to the facts. There is no certainty of profit for those who furnish the money: but the workman profits whether the venture pays or not. It is true that in some cases where the price of metal has been exceptionally high the workman has received higher than normal wages, but it is also true that the workmen receive a very large proportion of the expenditures of mine operators in the case of losing ventures as well as in the successful. If there is anything certain about mining in Ontario it is that workmen will receive their wages and that they will not be asked to make good the losses of the operators. The Union official is not justified in stating that "those investing money with the hope of big returns cannot expect to shift the burden on their workmen if a good prospect fails to make a paying mine." He implies that the operators of unsuccessful ventures endeavor to shift the burden on the workmen. We do not believe this to be true.

MINERS' CERTIFICATE BOARDS—CHANGES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

As will be noted from our British Columbia communication, the Legislature of that Province, on the initiative of the Minister of Mines, has amended the C. M. R. Act insofar as it relates to the method of granting certificates of competency to miners and officials by abolishing the local examining board at each colliery and substituting a travelling board. A similar reform was made in the Nova Scotia C. M. R. Act a few years ago, and in place of the persons who were formerly appointed for the purpose of granting miners' certificates at each colliery, Local Boards were appointed by the Commissioner of Mines. British Columbia has adopted a plan which is suitable for a Province of wide distances and varied mining activities. In both British Columbia and in Nova Scotia, we believe, the reform was needed to cure certain abuses in the granting of miners' certificates, which are well understood locally, but not usually discussed.

We are slightly puzzled at the statement made by our correspondent, which indicates that the employment of aliens in British Columbia mines is not desired, and is, in effect prohibited, by the new regulation. Alien is a term of wide application, and even the more specific appellation of "enemy alien" is difficult to apply now that Europe is being re-cast, and the former citizen of Austria-Hungary has blossomed out as one of a dozen resurrected ethnological persistences. Unless emigration to Canada has ceased—which no one believes—we expect the Dominion in the future to be enriched by the labour and national genius of many European nations, as it has been in the past. While we earnestly believe that the greatest discrimination should be exercised over incoming emigrants to Canada, and feel that public opinion agrees that our national gates have been too wide open in the past; and while also the danger to British institutions from the careless admission of undesirable European emigrants has been of late only too clearly demonstrated in Winnipeg and elsewhere, we also feel that any attempt to earmark for British citizens exclusively any particular branch of endeavour in Canada will not only impose tremendous economic limitations, such as may cause public opinion to swing too quickly the other way, but will be out of harmony with Canadian policy, which in the past has welcomed good men, from any country, as potential Canadians. If the League of Nations becomes an international reality, what will constitute an "alien"?

EDITORIAL NOTE.

The concluding portion of the Oil Concession Correspondence, the last instalment of which appeared in the "Journal" of the 2nd July, is held over until the issue of the 16th July.