

search. And searching of this kind is work that brings its own reward whatever the tangible results may be.

Let us imagine that our railway corporations, instead of catering to the frivolous impulses of the masses and classes, were to begin a sane campaign with the object of interesting Canadians in finding out for themselves the hidden wealth of our country.

The results of such a campaign may be left to the imagination. Cheap rates for prospectors we have advocated before. This would be but an item. Should the time arrive when Canadians are fitted mentally and physically to explore our boundless stretches of unknown lands, our nations will have nothing to fear from enemies without. The vast gain in physical and moral well-being would be accompanied by an immensely increased national freight traffic. Everywhere the effect of these conditions would be reflected. Let us, then, pray for the day when our national spirit shall wake to the meaning and possibilities of prospecting.

SAMPLING OF COBALT ORES.

Our readers will notice elsewhere in this issue an article from Dr. A. R. Ledoux on sampling Cobalt ores. Dr. Ledoux is easily pre-eminent as an authority on subjects of this kind. At our request he has embodied in this article his experience and conclusions in regard to the peculiarly difficult silver ores of Cobalt. The elaborate precautions that must be taken to ensure a fair sample are set forth. This makes impressive reading.

"In the very beginning," writes Dr. Ledoux "we learned that this ore constituted a class by itself and could not be sampled accurately by ordinary methods, due very largely to the presence of nuggets and smaller particles of native silver, and to the fact that the silver is very unevenly distributed."

The fact that Dr. Ledoux does not employ mechanical samples is a point to which we would draw especial notice. The limitations of mechanical samplers are not generally known. That Cobalt silver ores may not be amenable to fair mechanical sampling, is an inference from Dr. Ledoux's article.

We invite discussion of this and other points touched upon.

PREVENTION OF GOLD STEALING.

Steps are being taken by the Victoria (Australia) Chamber of Mines to amend the Gold Buyers' Act (1907) at present in force in that State. Preventive legislation of this kind has especial interest for Canadian mine owners. For some years Nova Scotian operators have made vain attempts to promulgate laws that will make thorny the path of the gold-stealer. Similarly, the Cobalt mine managers have tried to

tackle the task of preventing the pilfering of silver. The Department of Justice, at Ottawa, has moved slowly in the matter. But hopes are entertained that effective measures will soon be adopted.

A few notes concerning the condition of affairs in Victoria will throw useful light upon the subject. On March 2, a conference was held at Bendigo for the purpose of discussing the prevention of gold stealing. Representatives of the Mine Owners' and Mine Managers' Associations were present. So also were representatives of the labor union—the Amalgamated Miners' Association. It appears that investigation had revealed the fact that about 30,000 ounces of gold had been stolen and disposed of to buyers not identified with the regular banks. This was announced from the pulpit by a Rev. Mr. Worrall. Immediately a storm of angry protest arose. The conference was called to look further into the matter.

It was expected that the members of the Association would do all in their power to remove the cloud thus cast upon them. Strange to say they would consent to nothing except conditional co-operation. Although they recognized full well the very serious position in which their whole Association was placed by these revelations of wholesale peculation, they proffered the following bargain:

"The Miners' Association is willing to co-operate (in the prevention of gold-stealing), in the expectation that the mine owners will give preference to unionists and abolish the black list."

In other words the miners were content to permit dishonesty to flourish in their own ranks unless they could impose their own conditions on the operators.

This short-sighted policy, this willingness to sacrifice principle, is too often the sign-manual of labor organizations. Particularly is it characteristic of one body, the United Mine Workers, a United States organization that is now making desperate attempts to gain control of Canadian miners. We believe that morally and socially our Canadian labor organizations are healthier than those across the border. For this and other reasons we shall continue to oppose the encroachment of the U. M. W. upon Canadian territory.

ONE PROSPECTUS.

The prospectus of the Northern Star Mining and Development Co., Limited, 197 Sparks Street, Ottawa, has been submitted to us. It is a thing of beauty.

The prospectus attributes to the vice-president, Mr. C. W. Willimott, experience and attainment that he does not possess. Mr. Willimott was attached to the staff of the Geological Survey for some years. The following statement is made on page 10 of the prospectus: "During the latter part of his service with the Canadian Government, all minerals brought to that office were referred to him for identification. His 38