

refer to the fact that serious doubts have been expressed by several engineers as to the representative character of the Timmins sample.

Now, whatever the actual facts may be, the Messrs. Timmins are in no wise bound to make public the history of that sample unless it is their intention to interest the public in their enterprise. In this event they have no right to expect the public to consider their statements unless those statements are backed by a full technical record of the sample.

On the other hand, if the Messrs. Timmins intend to develop their property without selling shares to the public, they have every right to suppress particulars. But, until those particulars are published, all that can be accepted is that a car-load of rich ore has been mined in Porcupine.

No good object can be served by shutting our eyes to facts. Porcupine is decidedly *not* a proved district. Development has been and will be slow. The prices asked for undeveloped prospects are preposterous. Frequently the elements of a decent gamble are lacking. As against these facts, however, it must be remembered that rich ore has been found on several claims. How extensive the enrichment is in each case is known by no one. Only careful, competent engineering can determine this.

Owners of claims, anxious to sell quickly and at the top of the market, may resent plain speech. But exaggeration is precisely what has before now killed gold mining in Ontario. The CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL will rejoice exceedingly if Porcupine becomes a successful mining region. But whatever grounds we may have for *hope*, we have not yet a sufficient basis for *belief*.

THE HAIR-TRIGGER CRITIC.

Having passed through Egypt on his way to the "desired metropolis," Mr. T. Roosevelt finds himself impelled to inform the British nation that it is not doing its full duty by that country of historic trouble. As a critic, Mr. Roosevelt falls into the hair-trigger class. Sub-conscious cerebration provided him with his criticisms long before he saw Egypt. Egypt furnished local colour. The fact is that it is Great Britain's misfortune not to have conformed to Mr. Roosevelt's own methods.

Mining centres ever and anon are touched up by the same species of critic. The hair-trigger critic is often desperately in earnest and unquestionably honest. But either he is incapable of seeing beneath the surface, or else he is temperamentally incapable of taking sufficient pains to inform himself on both sides of his subject. The worst of him is that he may frequently become the innocent mouthpiece of extreme partisans.

PORCUPINE.

Porcupine is so much discussed at present that we feel no compunction in assigning it a large amount of space. We would request our readers to ponder carefully the articles contributed by Mr. Haultain. They are charac-

teristically vigorous and timely. Dwellers in Porcupine will do well to take them to heart.

The general article by Mr. W. E. H. Carter is intended as a provisional estimate of the camp. Mr. Carter's judgment is worthy of respect. In addition to his professional experience he occupied for some years the position of Inspector of Mines for Ontario. Consequently, he has an intimate knowledge of gold mining in this province.

NOVA SCOTIAN MINING EXAMINATIONS.

We have been credibly informed that grave abuses exist in the system of examining candidates for coal miners' certificates in Nova Scotia. It is needless to give particulars. We hope that no time will be lost in clearing up what appears to be a distressing condition.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Our readers will find matter of extraordinary interest in our current London letter. The notes concerning the Maikop oil field, and the discussion of coal dust explosions are outstanding features.

In Canada, gold coins are legal tender for a payment of any amount; silver coins for an amount not more than ten dollars; and bronze coins for an amount not exceeding 25 cents. British gold coins are legal tender, as are, also, subject to certain restrictions, United States gold coins.

The initial number of "Canadian Finance," an independent investment, trade, banking, and insurance journal, has just reached us. "Canadian Finance" is published in Winnipeg under the editorship of Mr. S. R. Tarr. Its object is to serve western interests no less than those of the east. Hence it should be of especial service to thousands of eastern investors. We wish it all success.

Nova Scotian coal operators, as the "Maritime Mining Record" points out, must face the problem of finding a market for slack coal. To our mind the best solution is that of utilizing the slack for generating power at the mine. There are growing markets for power within easy distance of most of the larger mining centres.

The method of measuring ore reserves in terms of the square fathom instead of in tons has been adopted by the Wernher-Beit mines. The change is looked upon favourably by other operators. Why the "fathom" should be chosen instead of the "yard" or, better, the "metre," it is hard to conceive.

HOISTING BY ELECTRICITY.

Where sufficient electrical supply exists and where there is provision to prevent entire stoppage in case of the failure of the power supply, hoisting by electricity is worthy of the consideration of mine managers. At a German mine, where electrical hoisting exists, over 3,000 tons of coal are raised in 16 hours' winding, with an average of 40 hoists per hour.