

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

INVESTORS in mines, and workers in mines, will find valuable information in regard to cost of work in the Slocan by reading the extracts given in this number from the report of the Provincial Mineralogist of British Columbia.

Mr. Alan Sullivan, C.E., M.E. of Rat Portage is in the city. Mr. Sullivan is regarded as a most careful man in his work and his statements. His information as to the season's probable development in the Lake of the Woods country, is exceedingly encouraging. The probable erection of stamp-mills around that lake and in the great valley eastward that is tributary to it, will exceed the most sanguine expectations of people in eastern Ontario.

A FEW weeks ago we called public attention to the great benefit to the public that would follow the re-introduction of fractional paper currency. Our enterprising contemporaries the *World* and the *News*, of this city, at once took the matter up and gave it greater publicity. We hope the results of the discussion will be that the fractional currency will be restored in a manner that will make "shinplasters" readily obtainable in every part of the country, both in towns and rural communities.

THE pushing of the James Bay railway, via Parry Sound to Sudbury, is one of the most imperative of railway projects in which Toronto is concerned. Water power is abundant and perhaps electricity could be called into service in operating much of the road. But the road should be rushed through this year if possible—that is from a Toronto point of view—which will be obvious to anyone who looks at recent and contemplated railway developments.

THE speech of Mr. Andrew Patullo, M.P.P., on the mineral and other resources of Ontario, in moving the address to the Crown in the Ontario Legislature, would go down to the future as amongst the classic literature of Ontario were its subject matter other than what it had to be, a sizing up of the immediate opportunities and necessities of a new industry. It, however, will be long remembered by mining men. It brought, however, some trouble. Within a day or two the member for North Oxford was loaded down with mining company prospectuses, and various other things, including nearly 20 pages of foolscap in the way of advice as to the policy the Government should adopt on mining. But there is little worthy achievement but entails trouble.

THE prospect of the nickel industry receiving a great forward impulse in the Sudbury district is very bright, now that European countries are contemplating adopting the metal in manufacture of cannon as well as armor plate. The deposits found in a great eastern and western belt in that district, are, it is well known, the greatest in the world. Their full development may need government aid to smelters, especially where the smaller deposits and the smaller operators are concerned. Large mines can afford smelters of their own. The Copper Cliff mine is paying a very large profit, and it is said employs about 700 hands. There are several other developments said to be almost equally promising. But it will be well if not a few companies, but a good many people have their share in the profits to be derived from this industry, and we want the smelters in Canada.

To enquirers in regard to investments in

mining companies, we wish to offer a few words of apology. The number of companies formed is several hundred. The quality of their prospects and degree of development made varies greatly and offers a chance in many cases of misleading the public. The financial organization of many companies appears to be defective. The methods adopted do not exclude great possibilities of failure. It would be unjust to judge in many instances without very full examination, and full information is but slowly to be obtained. We are making inquiries about several of the older and of the newer companies, and hope later to be able to give enquirers some of the results. There are several companies which would do well to remodel themselves, and this can sometimes be aided by seeking the advice of practical company managers of repute for ability and probity. We have too many "greenhorns" at the company-making business.

CANADA, tired at last by the years of nasty enforcement of the Alien Labor law is likely to turn on our American neighbors, and inflict the disagreeable penalty of a Canadian alien law. It will bear hard on many Americans living on our frontiers and the far greater number that come to our inland towns and cities. It will strike hard at some railway men imported from the other side, and at the hundreds who come here to some of our interior towns. In Rossland it will be felt, and in the gold districts all over Ontario and British Columbia it may affect thousands. American miners who wish to come to Canada, should pack up and come just as quickly as they can. The proposed enactment of the law is hailed with acclaim from one end of Canada to the other. The alien law of the U.S. was not meant at first to apply to Canadians, but selfishness and littleness have done their work, and with some degree of estrangement of two peoples who should be friends and kindly neighbors.

DR. SELWYN, at one time officially prominent in Canadian geological circles, is inadvertently upon very seriously by several of our contemporaries, and justly. We have reason to believe that his official position, combined with his "essentially agricultural" nature—(well, we doubt his ability to have ever made a good farmer), delayed the development of the Port Arthur silver region at a time when capital and enterprise might have made it one of the most celebrated regions in the world. He didn't know, of course, and his official position gave him a prestige that affected Canadians, few of whom then knew anything about mining, and the damper worked. The damper is now superannuated, and lies as a lesson to people thrust into positions of great responsibility where applied science is concerned. We hope the example will not be overlooked. We do not care to discuss Dr. Selwyn: we don't know enough about palæontology to describe him accurately.

THE mining company applying for a charter under the name of the "West Saw Bill" Mining Company have withdrawn the name in compliance with the request formulated by the solicitor of the famous Saw-Bill Mining Co. We are not sure that Saw Bill Lake is too small to have a north, south, east and west Saw-Bill Company. Mr. Kittson, the secretary of the Saw-Bill Company writes that "there are other valuable properties in the district." A mine at Kingston, and a mine at Hamilton, might properly be distinguished by calling the former East Ontario

Lake Co., and the latter, the West Ontario Lake Company. The general effect would be to increase the fame of the lake as a mining region. But Saw-Bill is not a pretty name, and notwithstanding probable dividends, the West Saw Bill Company may get a better name, without intruding on the name of the original and famous Saw-Bill mine. And the lake is small, even if there are scores of millions of dollars just around it.

## PERSONAL.

Mr. Ross, the Toronto representative of the Canadian Rand Drill Co., is still confined to his room at the Walker House, as the result of a severe strain sustained in erecting some drilling plant. He expects to be on his feet again in the course of a few days.

## AROUND THE CITY.

MR. J. W. CHZESEWORTH, mining broker of this city, has sold two promising properties on the Lake of the Woods, a little north of the Sultana. The lots are 184 and 185E, Haycock township, the latter a large property. Mr. C. C. Robinson has purchased the properties as acting solicitor for a mining company to be known as the Mandrill.

THE Crystal Gold Mining Co., operating in the Wahnapiatae lake district, have been engaged for some few days past in hauling in their 10 stamp mill and other plant. On Wednesday they placed an order with the Canadian Rand Drill Co. of Toronto for a complete hoisting and pumping plant to be shipped immediately. Mr. Hardman, the well known mining engineer, is acting in a consulting capacity for the Crystal people.

THE Golden Gate Mining and Development Co., of the Lake of the Woods, has purchased two large properties immediately south of 20SP.—known as the Golden Gate mine. They are among the two largest locations in the district, embracing as they do, 316 acres. Ten gold-bearing veins have already been discovered, and free gold can be taken off the surface at different points on the property. Surface assays average about \$16. This is considered one of the best properties in the district.

INQUIRIES made of Messrs. Lownsbrough & Co. as to the Colorado Company, which guaranteed one per cent. per month from time of purchase to buyers of stock paying a large advance on ordinary prices of the stock, resulted in the information that Mr. Lyman, whose name was prominently connected with the company, had gone to Europe on business; that his address there was not known to Messrs. Lownsbrough, nor at what date he would return, but that the books were at the headquarters of the company in Rochester, where information in regard to anything of interest to shareholders might be obtained. The address of the Secretary is Charles A. Keeler, Colorado Gold Mining and Development Co., Chambers of Commerce, Rochester, N.Y.

## COMPANY NOTES.

PROSPECTUSES are nearly always sanguine, and many endeavor to enlist the support of the public by extensive and somewhat vague allusions to properties near by that are famous. We can almost acquit the Germania Gold Mining Co. of anything like this; their case is stated briefly and to the point, and the report of a known expert, E. W. Lilijegrens, ex-superintendent of the Le Roi Mining Co. given. The two properties purchased are the Electa and the Chief Seattle, adjoining, each of 53 acres, with, on the Electa, a shaft sunk at the