

esting camp, as taken from a letter I have received to-day from an old prospector there in his own plain words:—

"From a mining point of view, everything is in the worst possible state here. Not that the mines are at fault, but owing to the impractical changes in the Government regulations made by orders-in-council. It leaves every prospector in doubt as to whether he has any rights or not, and no man knows where he stands. The Government refuses title to any claim until it passes inspection, and very few claims pass. Everyone is afraid to spend money on his claim because he does not know whether it is his or not. Then no man will buy a claim, nor do anything until he gets a title and a title he can't get unless he has a developed or proved up mine. A "prospect" is nowhere, no matter how promising it may be. There are only fourteen properties, old and new, that have shipping ore in sight, but over seven hundred prospectors' licenses have been sold already this year at \$10.00 each or double the fee charged in British Columbia and even in the Yukon now. Besides, a man has to pay \$10.00 extra for every claim he takes up after the first one, and also \$5.00 for transferring a claim or any interest in it.

"The result of the whole muddle and uncertainty as to titles is that the few real capitalists who visited the district have left in disgust. They did not want to invest in law suits, or the chance of titles being passed by inspectors who have no practical knowledge of mining, and who have thrown open again nearly half of all the claims in the townships of Coleman and Bucke, or the entire mineral belt. But for a wonder, twenty days are given to appeal to the Minister of Mines. All the claims that have been thrown open are being protested by the parties who took them up, and who intend in many cases to test the matter, in the courts before giving up their claims. Of course, if a man has a shipping mine he is all right anyway, but the inspection of claims has knocked out everything else, and no one wants to buy now, though there was a lively demand for even more prospects until this novel obstruction was inflicted upon us.

"The worst thing of all, perhaps, is that a prospector's oath about the discovery of mineral on a claim is not taken here any more. We have heard a good deal about the "Ross Bible," but the present government of Ontario seems to have discarded even the Hebrew Bible in this district, though such a thing has never been heard of before for over nineteen hundred years in any Christian land."

Truly, the Whitney Government has made a bad start as far as mining is concerned, and it is to be hoped that no more ignorant experiments will be tried on the silver-cobalt belt.

Yours faithfully,

A. McCHARLES.

Sudbury, Sept. 20th, 1905.

To the Editor:

Sir,—Regarding the administration of mining lands in the Temiskaming district, the writer is heartily in accord with the steps the Ontario Government have taken to prevent the country being blanketed and gobbled up by speculators and boomsters. If such action had not been taken it is safe to say that by the first day of May last there would not have been a vacant piece of land within ten miles of Cobalt, and the country would have been practically sealed to the legitimate prospector. In the action taken, the Act has not been changed, but has merely been enforced; and where an imaginary hardship has been done to one, good has resulted to many, which I think is the object in view.

Under the present arrangement the original discoverer gets his find conserved to him. What more can he ask?

Three parties have been continually in the field since early spring prospecting for the writer, but so far no post has been planted, for the reason that no finds have been made.

The conditions at Cobalt are unique, and perhaps it is the first time in our country's history that a necessity has arisen for the rigid enforcement of the Mining Act; and I am pleased to see that the Government has been equal to the occasion. There is little doubt but that in the wake of Cobalt's wonderful production of silver, and the intense interest created, numerous wildcat schemes will be sprung on the innocent public, and many will fall victims, but if the requirements in regard to "discovery of mineral in place" had not been insisted upon, Cobalt would have become a hotbed of schemers and stock boomers, and this would not have been in the public interests.

Apart from the fact that it might be advantageous to this Province, if the Government would encourage the local treatment of its ores, I am not at present prepared to discuss the proposed revision of the Mines Act.

In conclusion, I wish to say that the inspectors who have been entrusted with the very disagreeable and thankless task of enforcing the Act, are above suspicion, and the Department has in them honest and faithful servants.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. TRETHEWEY.

Cobalt, Ont., Oct. 2nd, 1905.

ELECTRIC SMELTING AND NEWSPAPER OPTIMISM.

To the Editor:

Sir,—During the last month (September) a number of papers throughout Canada, but chiefly in Western Canada, have contained articles predicting the greatness of Canada in the comparatively small space of a decade in a metallurgical way. And the particular metal whose metallurgy is to be thus expanded into an ornament of the Dominion is iron. The fact that almost all the newspapers con-