

The engineering schools, of which there are 15 at present, are instituted in every colliery centre where enough students make application to warrant the necessary expenditure. These schools are established for the purpose of instructing the men who operate the machinery about the collieries in the principles of steam and mechanical engineering, so that they may possess themselves of the theory of these branches and be enabled, if they wish, to obtain Government certificates of competency at 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th class stationary engineers.

A general educational standard is required for entrance into the coal mining and engineering schools, and preparatory classes in mathematics and English composition are held in every locality where the coal mining and engineering schools exist. Thus no ambitious man who has to earn his livelihood is withheld from securing such a practical education as will enhance his position and secure promotion.

The proviso for "Local Technical Schools" in the Act reads as follows:—

N. S. Laws, Chap. 1, sec. 13: "The Governor-in-Council may from time to time establish, in such places as it may be deemed advisable, local technical schools to furnish industrial education of such character and extent as will most effectively meet the requirements of the population and industries of the locality."

These local technical schools are supported both by the province and the locality, each sharing nearly equally in the financial burden. This year three industrial centres, Halifax, Sydney and New Glasgow have responded with alacrity and have established schools of this character. In the three, the enrollment has exceeded 400 and the average attendance for the first two months is above 70 per cent. The classes offered this

year are as follows: Business English, Technical Arithmetic, Practical Algebra and Geometry, Mechanical Drawing, Machine Drawing, Architectural Drawing, Elementary Electricity and Magnetism, Mechanism, Surveying and Plotting, and Chemistry.

The courses are practically free, a deposit of \$2.00 to \$4.50 being required on entrance to any class, and this amount being refunded at the end of the term according to each student's attendance. The classes are open to everybody who has the necessary knowledge to enter the class which he desires to attend. It is hoped that there will be a goodly number next year from those receiving instruction in these foundation courses at present, who will wish to pursue their studies further and thus form a warranty for offering classes of more advanced grades.

Several other industrial centres than the ones named have intimated their desire of participating in the scheme of local technical schools, and next year a number of the progressive towns will have schools offering such practical instruction in mathematics, drawing, etc., as well be best suited for the men employed in the local industries.

Nova Scotia has provided for a system of Technical Education which can be expanded from the present working basis to supply practical and industrial and engineering instruction from the lowest to the highest grade. This will train the native born to operate native industries and to develop the natural resources of this section of Canada to the utmost. In putting the actual machinery of the system in operation, the Government is proceeding cautiously and conservatively, but it intends to provide for technical education throughout the province, where it can be so advantageously offered as to warrant the expense for its establishment.

MINING IN QUEBEC IN 1907.

BY J. OBALSKI.

The mining industry in Quebec is characterized by its steady development and so far it has been free from the erratic movements which follow upon fresh discoveries.

For the study of this subject, we may divide the Province into two sections:—

1. The old settled districts of the Eastern Townships and the valley of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers.
2. The new districts in the North.

I.

In the Eastern Townships the leading industry is asbestos, which has been flourishing so far. There are thirteen companies operating at Wolfestown, Black Lake, Thetford, East Broughton and Danville, which employ about 2,500 men, and have been producing regularly. The output for 1907 is expected to be 25 per cent. higher than in 1906. It should be added that the selling price has considerably increased, especially for the crude varieties; it now reaches close on \$300 per ton for the first class and \$200 for the second, while the price for fibre varies from \$15 to \$100, according to grade. The fibre is now in great demand owing to the new use made of it for the manufacture of boards, and this has led to the opening up of new mines and the erection of new mills at East Broughton, which district is mostly a fibre producer. A new mill has been started during the year and two others are in course of construction at

the same place. A mill has also been erected at Colraine, but it has been working only a few months.

In Bolton, near Eastman, a body of asbestos-bearing serpentine has been developed on quite a large scale, this district being an entirely new one.

There was practically nothing done in the Ottawa region, where a fine quality of asbestos—but rather scarce—exists.

The asbestos industry is now a permanent one; the mines are well equipped with proper plant, the result of twenty-five years of experience of men who have made that industry their career and have created it here.

The Shawinigan Power Company has established a main line carrying 50,000 volts, which divides its power among the various mines to the extent of over 6,000 horse-power.

The proximity of the railway makes the transportation question a very simple one, while labor is both plentiful and good.

Practically all the mines are yielding good returns to their operators.

The Chrome mines found in the serpentine belt in the Township of Colraine are now worked on more scientific methods. During the year diamond drilling has been resorted to for the purpose of proving the existence of ore bodies at a greater depth than the quarries previously worked, and, as a result of such