

The Canadian Miner.

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AND

Devoted to the interests of Miners, and all kinds of Mining; to the popularizing of Mining as a great National Industry; and to the protection of investors in Mining Companies.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

WE have produced several geologists whose diligence in exploring a vast and unknown region with comparatively little aid from European or other investigations is worthy of great praise. They had to deal with the great Laurentian system, the occurrence of which in Europe and in the United States is in very limited areas. In fact Canadian geologists have led the world in the study of these rocks which formed a vast reach of narrow continent from Labrador round by the great lakes and north-westward east of the Mackenzie river when neither the Appalachian upheaval of the east, nor the later tremendous upheavals of the Rocky Mountain system had taken place, and when the Mississippi basin and probably the vast basins drained by the Red and Saskatchewan rivers and the Mackenzie river system, constituted an shallow inland sea. Several of our geologists have made a world-wide reputation and stand in the foremost ranks amongst the great men whose patience in building up geology has already done so much for the world. We are proud of them. But, of course, we have geologists and geologists.

In some countries learned societies take up geologists who have shown the eminent virtues of patience and cautious, if bold, inquiry. With their support, many of our great geologists of a generation ago achieved fame. Since that time a certain measure of popular appreciation of geology and its practical outcome has induced governments to organize geological surveys. Under this system it is not always the fittest that survives. We may gain in the greater vigor of the work of exploration, and on the whole, this plan may be the best, especially in new countries. We are inclined to think sometimes that in view of the totally different attainments of the men who have charge of the affairs of state from time to time, a learned society acting in association with the government and largely supported by the government, could manage certain branches of scientific inquiry, such as geology, meteorology, and archaeology with more effective results than under direct government control.

We have had much criticism of geologists of late amongst our mining men and amongst

Canadians generally. It has been provoked by the faults of a few men, who posed, or seemed to pose, as knowing a great deal when their mental and scientific horizon was not of sufficiently ample breadth to include new occurrences and variations of rocks. Gold and other metals lay under their feet and they did not see them. The prospector was too much the geologist's eye, and the prospector resented the unwilling use made of him when he had proved what the geologists failed to see, or even dream of. "Silver or gold cannot be here; the rock formation, judged by what I have seen, or have read, make it improbable." So the mining industry in several districts has been given severe checks, and the prospector has won the glory of discovering new areas rich in mineral wealth.

BUT it would be a great mistake for our average citizen or for the prospector to under-rate the services that our geologists have done the country. Very often they are credited with saying what they never said. They must not say gold is probably here or there in paying quantities unless they have good reason to think so. It is not every one who can stick, as a scientific man, to bare, known facts and yet be bold enough to lead also, as does the great astronomer, Camille Flammarion, into promising fields beyond. The geological survey has done good work; it would do better if government aid were more liberally furnished to it. It mapped out and marked the Huronian areas along the Seine and in the Manitou country and in the Lake of the Woods borders. Along its marks the prospector has found the richest gold fields. The survey could only map what came under its observation. It could not, without more money and more men, find the whole extent of our gold-bearing region.

THERE is very much more extensive and thorough exploration to be done by the geological survey. The Laurentian system has but been examined by lines or observed by croppings on a few streams. There is no reason to think that the metal bearing belts are confined to the districts now known to contain them. Northern Quebec and Labrador, easily accessible, are scarcely touched from the prospector's standpoint; and what of the vast region stretching over twenty degrees of latitude north-west of the Lake of the Woods?

THESE old rocks of eastern and northern Canada are fissured and seamed from end to end. If the process of gold-vein formation be largely that of infiltration from surrounding rock, we have but to compare the length of time the Huronian veins have had to accumulate gold, with the time the newer Rockies and Andes system has had, to suspect the Laurentian region the richer in precious metals.

PEOPLE whose experience has been in Australia, the Rand, Mexico, Colorado, British Columbia or anywhere in the western half of America cannot speak with any authority about the richness or greatness of the Ontario gold fields. Here they strike a condition totally unfamiliar to them. The probability is that the Ontario gold fields are the richest known fields in the world.

AMONG "experts" who deserve not the friendliest of criticism are some of our Mining Engineers. It is true that Civil Engineers whose only graduation in their business was in the service of engineering firms in Great Britain, built railways in France better than those built by graduates of the state-aided engineering schools, of that brilliant country noted for its attainments in many practical arts. And

what is true in kind in this case will continue to be true to the end. But it would be of value to mine owners and to investors in mines to know who are qualified M.Es. There are many bogus ones, who live on pretentious display of little knowledge, and who may do much harm by their reports. We have good mining engineers trained in Canada, who use the appellation rightly; we have many good mining engineers who have never claimed it, and many others who use it without more than a shadow of knowledge of mining. The public should beware of too readily accepting the prospectus opinions of the last class of "experts." A little money out of a "boom" is generally what they are after; they have no permanent reputation to lose.

ELSEWHERE we publish the *Canadian Manufacturer's* collection of views and facts bearing on the nickel industry of the Sudbury country.

SEVERAL city contemporaries are in the habit of copying, in whole or in part, interviews and other information or opinion from THE CANADIAN MINER, without the usual justice, not to say courtesy, of acknowledging the source from which they copy. We suppose the same injustice is done to many others of their contemporaries. After a while the special offender's failing will be sufficiently known to make the press of the province chary in giving it credit for anything original in the way of mining news.

BRITISH COLUMBIA is rich in precious metals. But Ontario, where development is much more recent, promises to equal it shortly in the number of paying mines. The promoters of Ontario mines are at work developing their properties rather than in booming stocks.

COMMON sense should make organizers of mining companies avoid over capitalization and especially the allotment of the greater part of the capital to the promoters and owners of mere prospects. There are signs in Eastern Canada that many of the companies in British Columbia organized on this basis will experience increasing difficulty in floating stock. Re-organization, with the wiping out of much of the stock allotted to promoters, may be necessary in many cases. What is true of the growing feeling here in regard to the distribution of capital stock is equally so in other parts. Such companies have but little chance in New York or London.

HERE is something new and very important, perhaps. A well-known and leading analytical writer of high standing in both Britain, and in British Columbia, where he now resides, writes to us, under date of March 4th, "I am proud and happy to say I have discovered, or rather identified, Tin this last week—metallic tin, found in some rotten granite. I believe firmly the man who brought it is honest; he's an old friend, prospector of course. . . . It is a valuable mineralogical find, whether there is enough to pay or not. I believe it is all right." We hope to hear more about this matter. The find, we assume, is in the lower Kootenay country. Tin mines would be a valuable addition to the operating mines of the Dominion.

BRITISH capital is now coming in large quantity into the Rossland and Trail camps. There is every reason, from a geological standpoint, why there should be immense wealth in the district, and the Le Roi and several other