

PUBLIC PRINTING

In the third report of the Committee on Parliamentary Printing, Mr. Currie says: "During the past two or three years changes have been made in the typographical arrangements of several blue books, whereby considerable economy has been effected. On these books an annual saving of \$15,000 has been made."

From such a statement one may gather some idea of the waste that characterizes many Government reports. It indicates that the saving which might be made is a very considerable one, and worthy of the attention of those responsible for such reports.

Government reports are necessary and many of them are of great value. Among the most useful are those published by the Geological Survey and the Mines Branch. They record the work of many careful investigators and assist greatly in the development and utilization of our mineral resources. Many of the publications, however, in common with reports of other Departments, would be more useful and would have cost less if more attention had been given to the editing and printing. The saving that might be effected by changing the typographical arrangement is a large item. A further large sum might be saved by limiting distribution to those who make use of the reports.

Perhaps the most important saving could be effected by impressing the authors with the fact that the verbose reports are very likely to be shelved or thrown away. As one correspondent says of the publications of several Departments: "These reports would be read if they were concise." Valuable information, collected by great expenditure of labor and money, becomes lost in the mass of words.

CORRESPONDENCE

A MISLEADING ESTIMATE.

The Editor of The Canadian Mining Journal:

Sir,—Information has reached me that a letter from a member of the Canadian Mining Institute, making certain allegations against myself, is to be published in the June number of the Monthly Bulletin of that institution. If the secretary of the Institute had given me opportunity to correct in the same issue whatever mis-statements there are in that letter, I should not now ask you to permit me to address members of the Institute through the columns of your Journal. I think it well, though, rather than wait until a month shall have elapsed ere I can do so through the Monthly Bulletin, to make it clear that while I am not at all concerned about the opinions of myself held by certain self-important persons, I hold very strong views on the subject of publishing misleading information in the official publication of the Institute.

The following self-explanatory letter was sent by me to the editor of the C. M. I. Monthly Bulletin, but, so far as I have seen, was not printed in that publication:

"Victoria, B.C., January 10th, 1916.

"The Editor, Monthly Bulletin of C.M.I.:

"Sir,—With much regret I to-day find that the Bulletin has been permitted to become a medium of publicity for what I believe to be an inflated estimate of the

mineral production of British Columbia for 1915. So far as I am able to judge, not only is there little probability of a total equal to that of 1913 (\$32,440,800), being reached, but returns received this month make it appear that even my own estimate of \$30,375,000 made last month for the 'Annual Financial Survey' of the Toronto Globe is too high. May I ask you to publish this intimation from me—that if the Bulletin is to be made, even occasionally, a channel for the dissemination of 'hot air' from Vancouver or anywhere else in British Columbia, my name must be removed from its list of regular correspondents. Had I known in time that you would accept so inflated an estimate, I certainly would not have taken the trouble to prepare for you the summary review for 1915 that I have done.

"E. Jacobs."

I inadvertently omitted inverted commas when quoting from the Bulletin for January the misinformation that the value of the 1913 production was \$32,440,800; that was the total for 1912, which was the year of highest record.

The position as to the estimate of the value of last year's production is as follows: In December I made an estimate of a total of \$30,375,000. Too late to have correction made I was informed that the official who supplied the figures for one important colliery had made a mistake of 100,000 tons of coal, equivalent to \$350,000. Then, I guessed the miscellaneous production — chiefly building materials, etc. — at \$2,000,000, which was nearly \$853,000 less than the corresponding total for 1914. A month later, the Provincial Mineralogist decided on an estimate of \$1,500,000. If the difference of \$850,000 thus accounted for be deducted from my December estimate of \$30,375,000, there will be left a sum of \$29,525,000, or approximately \$225,000 more than the preliminary estimate of the Provincial Mineralogist, and only \$75,000 more than the revised total of \$29,447,508 now on official record. The wild guess of the Vancouver 'hot air' man was \$3,141,000 in excess of the official preliminary estimate and \$2,993,000 more than the figures of the final total. I hope members of the Institute will feel appropriately grateful for having been supplied in the Monthly Bulletin with the conclusions of an authority possessing such manifest qualifications as those of the Vancouver correspondent of the Bulletin.

E. JACOBS.

Victoria, B.C., June 1st, 1916.

With mining activity on its western boundary and at Rice Lake, Manitoba is attracting attention these days. The Flinflon district will be visited by many mining men this summer.

The province, unfortunately, does not control its mineral resources and little assistance in development is to be expected unless the Federal Government recognizes the advantages to be gained.

ROCHESTER.

The Trethewey Mining Co. is exploring the Rochester property by a crosscut from a shaft on the Lumsden. The crosscut is being driven near the contact between the diabase sill and the Keewatin rocks, on the supposition that that horizon is the most promising. Results so far are encouraging, some small bodies of ore having been encountered.