

at the rate of 0.13 oz. per ton of ore crushed. No violent methods, such as steaming or scraping with steel, are used on the plates. The amalgam is removed by brushing with small whisks or with stiff straw brooms. Every ten days the weight of amalgam obtained at each mill is reported and verified. Each retort holds 7,000 oz. of amalgam. The retorting is done over pine fires, and always commences at 3 p.m. Early next morning the retorts are opened and the bullion removed. In the four melting furnaces \$130,000 in gold can be melted at one time.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The American Smelting and Refining Company has taken several options in the Sudbury region. The investigation of the nickel deposits has been going on for several months under the direction of Mr. Kirby Thomas.

The versatility of the mining engineer was never given better illustration than during the present strike in Porcupine. At least one prominent mine manager took the place of the cook. Another became hoistman. Still another combined the duties of deckhand and machinist. It needs no flight of fancy to imagine what blisters came on unaccustomed hands.

Incorrect newspaper items have done injustice to the persons to whom belongs the credit of successfully developing the Seneca-Superior mine in Cobalt. Briefly, the person who controlled and defined the policy of the syndicate was Mr. W. E. Segsworth, of Toronto. Assisted by Mr. R. H. Lyman, Mr. Segsworth has brought the mine to its present condition.

Many shareholders will welcome the news that the royalties exacted by the Ontario Government from cer-

tain Cobalt mines are to be abolished or reduced. The Chambers-Ferland royalty (10 per cent. net) is to be wiped out entirely until such time as the company declares more than 10 per cent. per year dividend. With the Hargraves the same conditions obtain. The 25 per cent. gross royalty now payable by the O'Brien is at present the subject of negotiation.

It seems probable that every country in the world will have adopted a nickel coinage before steps are taken in this direction in Canada, the country that is the chief producer of this metal. The desirability of introducing a nickel currency in Australia, in place of copper, is now being considered, and the press of the Commonwealth is unanimously in favour of the change, while the Prime Minister has also expressed himself as favourable. As we have already suggested, Canada might make amends for dilatoriness by a show of originality in utilizing "Monel" metal, which is an actual product of the country, for coinage purposes.

A proposal to organize an international engineering congress to assemble at San Francisco in 1915 is now under consideration, the intention being to extend invitations to the Canadian Mining Institute, the Mexican Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, the Australian Institute of Mining Engineers, and other mining societies to participate. Presumably it is designed that the congress shall be held in conjunction with the Panama-Pacific Exposition in that year. The selection of date is, however, unfortunate, as it is already arranged that the next meeting of the International Mining Congress shall take place in London in 1915. To this the mining societies of the world are in a sense pledged. It would scarcely seem advisable, therefore, that there should be two international meetings of the same character in the same year. Nor is the present proposal quite fair to the International Mining Congress.

THE RELATION OF TRANSPORTION TO MINING IN COBALT

Written for the Canadian Mining Journal by A. A. Cole.*

Cobalt has always been fortunately situated regarding transportation facilities, owing to the fact that the railway reached the camp before the silver field was opened up; indeed the discovery of this rich mineral district may be traced directly to the railway construction.

The early operators were, therefore, freed from one of the usual sources of worry in the development of a new camp, and after they had mined the ore their chief anxiety was to obtain a market for their product. At

first this did not seem a difficult matter, and a quantity of ore was taken for treatment by a New Jersey smelter. The complex nature of the ore at once proved a stumbling block and for months no ore was treated, but finally a method of handling it was worked out, and shipments began. At this time none of the shipments remained in Canada for treatment, but all went to the United States. The rapidly increasing output of the mines and the richness of the ore, naturally attracted attention, and numbers entered this most inter-

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