

in a delicate condition. Would it not be practicable for these same gentlemen to amalgamate Peary, Cook, and our own brawny Bernier? "Amalgamated Polar Publicists" has a goodly sound.

With Mr. Roosevelt making strange noises from out Central Africa, Lieutenant Shackleton orating about the Antarctic, and Cook and Peary at garrulous war, our intellect is in danger of total eclipse.

THE STAMP-MILL.

The development of the heavy stamp is one of the outstanding features of ore-dressing practice during the last twenty years. Two decades ago, the 900-lb. stamp was the heaviest in use in America. It is true that, even at that date, heavier stamps (1250-lb.) were in use at a few mines on the Rand. But these did not set the fashion, and little was known then of their performance.

Exhaustive experimental work on the Rand, work in which Mr. W. A. Caldecott was a leading spirit, demonstrated clearly the higher commercial efficiency of heavy stamps. Roughly, a weight of at least 1750 lbs was indicated as desirable, and, of late, stamps heavier even than this have been installed. Incidentally, experience has shown that the cumbrous cast-iron anvil block is a superfluity. Heavy concrete foundations, with merely a thin layer of insertion between the concrete and the mortar-box have given entire satisfaction, notwithstanding the increased weight of the stamps.

In Mr. Caldecott's paper, "The Development of Heavy Gravitation Stamps," reproduced in this issue, these and other points are elucidated. Mr. Caldecott's papers are the ripe fruit of experience. We commend this paper to our readers.

THE COPPER RESOURCES OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

What the future has in store for Vancouver Island as a copper producer is foreshadowed in a letter written by Mr. W. H. Trewartha-James, general manager of the Tye Copper Company, and published in the *Victoria Daily Colonist*.

Mr. Trewartha-James estimates that Vancouver Island has produced, during the past five years, about one-half the copper that has come from the entire Pacific Coast district.

During the twelve months ending August 31st, 1909, the Tye Copper Company's smelter at Ladysmith turned out 3,500,000 pounds of copper, 52,000 ounces of silver, and 7,000 ounces of gold. This includes about 208,000 pounds of copper produced during six months from a group of mines on Vancouver Island.

But it is evident that Vancouver Island has hardly begun to get its stride. The Island is, to a large extent,

terra incognita. We believe that the opening up of its mineral deposits will be a vital factor in the industrial progress of British Columbia. Interest can best be aroused by public pronouncements of responsible men like Mr. Trewartha-James.

EXPLANATORY.

Commenting upon an editorial that appeared in our issue of September 15th, the *Evening Citizen*, of Ottawa, while admitting that the *Canadian Mining Journal's* strictures upon certain daily papers are to a considerable extent justified, claims that there is great difficulty in securing reliable mining news, and that daily papers cannot afford to maintain correspondents in mining camps.

The contention of our respected contemporary is, no doubt, quite true. But it hardly covers the point under discussion. We contend that our daily journals should least of all afford to accept and publish the extravagant misstatements of promoters and brokers. How far each paper can go in the direction of getting authentic news is a function of each paper's enterprise.

The *Evening Citizen*, to give further force to its argument, takes exception to our Special Correspondence columns. It charges us with carelessness and inaccuracy. Notices regarding mining properties, states the *Citizen*, in the Elk Lake district or Gow Ganda, or Miller Lake, are published in the *Canadian Mining Journal* under the head of "Cobalt news." This the *Citizen* takes as evidence that we are "getting the four camps mixed up."

As the charge is apparently made without levity, we must hasten to assure our contemporary that we are not ignorant of the geography of Northern Ontario. In fact much of that same geography has been learned to the pestiferous accompaniment of black flies and mosquitoes.

The explanation, if explanation be needed, is simply that most of our correspondence, gathered from many sources, is actually written in Cobalt. Cobalt is still the hub of the northern silver district and the gathering and distributing centre for mining news. Quite seriously, it had never occurred to us that the arrangement of our Cobalt news letters could lead to confusion. We had taken it for granted that the great bulk of our readers had some idea of the relative positions of the old and new mining camps of the north. We hope that the *Citizen* will clear its editorial mind of the horrible suspicion that we don't know Cobalt from Gow Ganda.

AN OMISSION.

In our issue of September 15th, there appeared a reproduction of the flow-sheet of the Goldfield Consolidated mill. Mention was made of the fact that the Allis-Chalmers Company furnished the machinery for this plant. To this should have been added the statement that the Deister Concentrator Company installed 70 of their No. 3 tables.