

From our British Columbian correspondent's note it will be seen that, as at July 1st of this current calendar year, there was due on lead bounty the sum of \$832,979.68. The total appropriation made by the Dominion Government was \$2,500,000. The total amount paid before that date was \$1,617,020.32. Of this, the sum spent up to June 30th, of this year, is \$49,713.32.

Upon Mr. J. M. Clark, K.C., who has been largely instrumental in the recent codification of the mining laws of the Dominion, has been conferred the honour of election to the Honorary Council of the North British Academy. The Academy is a notable scientific society amongst whose officers are such persons as the Right Hon. Viscount Milner, Field Marshall Earl Roberts, and the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour.

CORRESPONDENCE

COMPULSORY CERTIFICATES FOR MINE MANAGERS.

Editor CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL:—

Sir,—What has played a prominent part in hampering the progress of the mining industry is the fact that the management of a large proportion of the mines has been left in the hands of men who are incompetent to fill such responsible positions. By paying a visit to some of the mining districts and observing the methods employed in carrying on operations it is possible to see where instances of incapable management have been the cause of squandering thousands of dollars. This fact alone demonstrates the need of establishing a strict standard of efficiency for the mine manager.

In order to establish a higher standard for men engaged in this branch of the profession, the urgent necessity for legislation compelling an examination in certain mining essentials is obvious. The passing of an Act of Parliament to this general effect would not only protect the industry but would raise the standard of competent mine managers to a higher plane. Certain reservations could be made in favour of men who have had years of practical experience in underground work. In some cases such men are of equal value to the industry as their technically trained brothers, particularly where mining properties are free from complexity of geological structure and chemical combination. It would be a hardship to the man who has graduated through the underground workings of a mine to exclude him from a higher position for the sole reason that he has not had the opportunity to secure a scholastic training. Cases of this kind could be taken care of in the arrangement of details. It is a matter of vital importance to the mining industry that practical experience be not overlooked. Nevertheless the science of mining makes technical training absolutely necessary for the mine manager. A man who has taken a course in a school of mining, added to years of practical experience, is better fitted for the office than a man who has had no technical training.

For many years the mining fields of Canada and the United States have been the hunting ground for the unqualified man. Men of this character apparently overlook the fact that it is a grave misdemeanour to accept a position as mine manager when they are not qualified to fill the office—no matter under what conditions the position may have been secured. Positions as mine manager are often obtained through the influence of friends for men who have not the slightest knowledge of even the rudiments of mining, and in

many cases the final result has been the closing down of prospects before they have had an adequate test.

Some idea of the clamant need for the certifying of the mine manager may be gathered from the fact that before a man is allowed to take charge of a boiler and engine he is compelled to produce a certificate. The lives of men are in his hands. None other but a thoroughly reliable man is allowed to take charge of a hoist, yet the mine manager is the hoist man's superior officer. His responsibilities are more diverse, and he is, to a great extent, responsible for the doings of the hoist man, therefore it is apparent that there should be some law compelling the man in charge of the hoist driver to pass an examination in mining matters before he is considered competent to fill such a responsible position.

The question of certifying mining managers is of sufficient importance to warrant the co-operation of the Minister of Mines with the Canadian Mining Institute in acquiring the desired end.

Yours, etc.,

GEORGE R. ROGERS,

Toronto, Sept. 21st.

Personal and General

Mr. G. C. Bateman is still in Porcupine.

Mr. J. W. Evans gave another successful demonstration of the Evans-Stansfield furnace at the School of Practical Science, Toronto University, on the evening of Sept. 21st. His audience was largely made up of members of the American Electrochemical Society. Much interest was roused, and it is probable that further demonstrations will be arranged. Practical publicity of this kind is highly desirable.

Mr. W. E. Segsworth, mining engineer, Jarvis Building, Toronto, has returned from a lengthy inspection of mining properties in Eastern Ontario.

Mr. W. A. Parks, associate professor of geology, University of Toronto, returned to Toronto on September 21st, after being absent the whole summer on official business connected with the Federal Mines Branch.

Mr. Kirby Thomas, mining engineer, 20 Broad St., New York, recently examined several claims in the West Shining Tree region.

Mr. George P. Dempster, Porcupine representative of J. S. MacArthur & Co., visited Toronto during the middle of September.

Mr. A. A. Hassan, consulting mining engineer, has established an office in 11 Royal Exchange Building.