

mining lands that include the surface as well. Then when default is made in payment of the latter, the mineral rights would revert to the Crown and a clear title could be obtained.

THE CHIBOUGAMOU REPORT.

The preliminary report of the commission appointed to investigate the Chibougamou (Quebec) region is distinctly disappointing, but cannot be considered finally discouraging.

For some years wild rumours of rich mineral deposits have been circulated, and much pressure was brought to bear upon the Quebec Government to construct 120 miles of railway from Lake St. John to tap the Chibougamou country. This the Government wisely refused to do. Too few facts were known. But the Government did consent to send an independent commission of specialists to examine the land of promise.

The personnel of that commission was carefully selected. With Dr. A. E. Barlow as chairman, and Prof. J. C. Gwillim and Mr. E. R. Faribault as his associates, the Government had every reason to place implicit confidence in the commission's singleness of purpose and in the correctness of its findings. The appointments were made with absolutely no reference to politics or to any other consideration than fitness. Ample appropriations were placed at the commission's disposal.

Throughout the summer's campaign nothing was heard of the work being done. Nor had any information been officially divulged until the tabling of the preliminary report on January 11. This is creditable to all parties concerned.

As regards the reported rich discoveries of gold, copper and asbestos, the commission found little corroborative evidence. No evidence at all was obtainable to confirm the reputed occurrence of ores of silver and cobalt. Iron ore and iron pyrites are spoken of more hopefully. But in general the commission's statement directly refutes the wonder-talk of the prospector. Fuller details in the final report may tend to qualify this disappointing pronouncement. Meanwhile, it is only possible for us to accept the fact that Chibougamou is not what we had hoped.

It must not be forgotten that the members of the Chibougamou commission would be the last persons in the world to damn the region altogether. Their duty was to determine the general geological character of the country, and to discover how true were current tales of spectacular wealth. Their finding must be accepted as it is offered—as an appraisal of the present results of prospecting in one section of Northern Quebec. It must not be misconstrued into a sweeping condemnation of a region that may yet prove entirely worth while.

RISE, SIR MINER!

Is the mining man without honor in this sorry scheme of things? We look for him in vain in our Houses of Parliament. He is not conspicuously visible in that

Palace of Sleep, the Senate. Nor does the coveted flower of Knighthood decorate him. And still our wonder grows that this is so!

Not numerous are those of us who are eligible for the Senate. This perhaps, is as it should be, Dr. Osler notwithstanding. Some few of us should aspire to the House of Commons. We are needed there. A full score of us we can name who have claims upon the accolade—claims sounder, larger, and more dignified than those of many a living Knight. We are producers. Humanly speaking, we create wealth. Our work adds to the health, also, of the nation. We blaze the path for the farmer and for the railway. Towns spring into being at our bidding. Indeed and in sooth we are the people!

But, withal, we are not dreamers dreaming greatly. Nay, we are highly practical persons with large desires. Weary are we of being ignored by the Powers, and played with by the politician. The time has come when we yearn for several well-nourished statesmen of our own to whom we shall say "Go." and observe them going.

Nor would we resent a trifling lot of senatorial seats. But this way lies trouble. We can but call for volunteers. Not ours the job of nominating. And if, perchance, a desultory geologist or two accept the honour we shall speak no word of blame.

As for Knighthoods—well, that's another matter. Most of us have rolled that succulent, sibilant, prefix over our tongues conjoined with the names our parents gave us. For our immediate selves we shall not, cannot, speak. Kind friends will remember to do that for us. But it has often struck us that a discreet distribution of royal favours amongst, say, the Council of the Canadian Mining Institute would be soothing and grateful. In fact this thought fires our imagination.

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FRENCH COAL DUST EXPERIMENTS.

An abstract of reports of the French coal dust experiments, conducted at Lievin Experimental Station during 1907-10, has just been published by the Colliery Guardian. Some general conclusions embodied in the pamphlet we shall outline herewith.

The practice of watering in front of shot-holes in dusty mine galleries, is commended. When the amount of water is equal to that of the dust, explosions can be checked, if not prevented, before extending seven to eight yards. A further good precaution is to water the gallery for about 10 yards previous to shot-firing.

General watering of the galleries, and, as an alternative, the dissemination of incombustible dust in sufficient quantity to form at least 40 per cent. of the mixed dust, are also urged. Other precautions, such as washing the tubs, lime washing the walls and floor, are suggested.

The difficulties and drawbacks of systematic watering are pointed out, and schistification (the dissemina-