

per cent. of this total, or 23,931,061 tons. In other words, the mining industry provides more than one-third of all the freight moved by our railways.

Comparing mining with agriculture, the returns shew that to the latter industry can be attributed hardly 50 per cent. of the tonnage credited to the former. Products of forests almost equal those of agriculture, both standing at less than 18 per cent. of the total freight moved. Manufactures account for 11.82 per cent.; products of animals, merchandise, and miscellaneous materials making up the balance.

The items classified as products of mines are anthracite coal, bituminous coal, coke, ores, stone, sand, and "other products." The last vague item forms an inconsiderable part of the whole. It is to be noted that cement, bricks, lime, and all metallurgical products are excluded. Nor is petroleum, which is essentially a mineral, included.

We often wonder if our railway corporations really know how dependent their enterprises are upon the mining industry. The figures above quoted are certainly well within the truth. Probably any different classification would place mining in an even higher position. But as they stand they are eloquent enough.

**A COMPARISON.**

One of the most irritating fictions, and one that is constantly reiterated, refers to mining. It is popularly believed that mining is essentially a dangerous calling. No amount of reasoning convinces the lay mind that this is not the case.

A comparison of statistics may convince where reasoning fails.

More than eighteen thousand men are employed in the collieries of Nova Scotia. During 1908 there were 41 fatal accidents at these collieries. To be exact, there were 2.2 men killed for each 1,000 employed.

Last year the railways of Canada employed 19,443 trainmen. Of these 113 were killed. That is, the fatality rate was 5.8 per 1,000 men employed. As this is considerably more than twice the rate obtaining in Nova Scotian collieries, the moral is obvious.

**THE BARTLETT FIASCO.**

To no Gowganda prospect was so much newspaper puffing given last winter, as to the Bartlett. The mine has now been closed; the promoter has been exposed; and the shareholders are wondering where they come in.

Comment is superfluous. Incompetent technical management, and prodigal waste at headquarters always bring the one result. But, there yet remains the consideration that the men who permitted their names to decorate the prospectus, are morally and legally liable. The Hon. Mr. Harcourt and his fellow-directors, if they wish to retain the respect of honest men, will assuredly come to the rescue.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

The annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute will be held at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on March 2, 3 and 4. A fine list of papers has been promised. All arrangements have been completed as to special railway rates, accommodation, etc.

In a review of last year's silver market, reprinted on another page, Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co., point out that even if a gold standard were to be adopted by China, the demand for silver would not be seriously affected. The development of the Empire's internal wealth will provide a growing market for years to come.

**HOUSE CLEANING APPLIED TO MINERAL LANDS IN ONTARIO.**

By G. R. Mickle.

In the Ontario Gazette of December 18th ult., and in the three successive issues appears a long list of lands in default of taxes and therefore subject to forfeiture on the 30th of June 1910, if the taxes are not paid before that date. This is the first systematic clean-up since the province made its first grant of land as mining land in 1852 about two generations ago. It is true there have been tax sales under the Algoma Land Tax from time to time, but this act did not apply to the whole province.

It will be noticed that the parcels of land advertised are of all sizes from the 10 sq. mile or 6,400 acre location of the early days down to fractions of 10 acres. Fancy granting an area equal to 160 claims of 40 acres in one block! These lands, which the present owners take no interest in, no doubt once represented great hopes. The fact that they now revert to the Crown is a striking illustration of the gulf often fixed between Expectation and Fulfilment.

Taking the list as a whole it will be seen that 247,037 acres are in arrears for taxes or about 29 per cent. of the total area subject to the Supplementary Revenue Act under which the tax is levied and the lands become subject to forfeiture. In a paper read by me before the Canadian Mining Institute last annual meeting, the working of this Act was fully explained. It applies only to mining lands in territory with no municipal organization. The policy long since abandoned, of selling outright large areas has evidently only resulted in tying-up a large amount of land for a long time to the benefit of no one.

By districts the areas advertised as subject to forfeiture are as follows:—

Kenora and Rainy River				
Districts . . . . .	4,072	"	"	29% "
Thunder Bay District . . . . .	96,371	"	"	23% "
Algoma District . . . . .	36,336	"	"	30% "
Sudbury District . . . . .	18,230	"	"	22% "
Nipissing District . . . . .	5,249	"	"	37% "
Parry Sound and Muskoka				
Districts . . . . .	4,072	"	"	29% "

Since the list was first published the area in Kenora and Rainy River has been somewhat reduced by the payment of amounts due.

It may be anticipated that before the 30th of June the number of acres will be further diminished, and that finally something like 200,000 acres will probably revert to the Crown. This should stimulate prospecting in the Western part of the Province where most of the land that will be re-vested in the Crown lies. It is to be hoped that some valuable discoveries will be made as a result.