

the world. The coal resources of the world will be similarly dealt with for the approaching Congress. The volumes are now in course of preparation, and it is expected that they will be ready for distribution before the Congress meets.

Coal, however, will not be the only topic of discussion. Such subjects as the differentiation in igneous magmas, the influence of depth on the character of metalliferous deposits, the origin and extent of the pre-Cambrian sedimentaries, etc., will be threshed out. Thus the mining engineer will hear much that has a direct bearing upon his work, despite the fact that the Congress is primarily a gathering of geologists. In fact, every effort is to be made to make the proceedings interesting in the widest sense to both geologist and mining engineer. And, possibly, Toronto can show cause why this should be.

THE PANTOLOGIST.

Seldom have we been favoured with a gem of purer ray serene than that forwarded to us to-day simultaneously by several subscribers. It is a circular letter, typed on the paper of a well-known Toronto hotel, and written by a person with whom we unfortunately are not acquainted.

The only unremarkable parts of this efflorescent effort are the words "Dear Sir," "Respectfully submitted," and the name. After reading the letter (and it grips the imagination from start to finish), it is borne in on us that "Respectfully submitted" is quite out of place. There is neither respect nor submission in the document. But there is much else that may be touched upon.

The letter opens with a generous offer of the writer's services "in an advisory capacity." This offer, be it remembered, is being sent to consulting engineers. "If I cannot save you money, I will not charge you a cent. I have had a thorough training in *every branch* of the industry and can give you the best of references." (The italics are our own.) "Below," continues our hero, "I suggest *several avenues* of expense, which can be *materially decreased and is well worth the small price of an expert.*" (Again the italics are ours.)

Then follow such sizzling suggestions as: "One of your big items of expense in excavating is powder. If your miners make eight or nine holes to a round where five would do, if properly set, you lose the power, and time involved in making the needless holes." This scintillating discovery is equalled only by a subsequent statement that, "All ground breaks different." Do tell We feel that ourselves and all our subscribers are getting priceless pearls of practical experience for less than nothing! It's like depriving a sucking child of its nutriment! It's not fair! But it doesn't end here. Not at all. Listen again.

"Is your timbering done in the most economic manner? This is a big item of expense. If expensive sets

are put in where stuffs will do, you are wasting money." Canadian engineers who have acquired the habit of timbering their shafts with hand-carved mahogany, or of using *lignum vitae* in their stopes, or of decorating their drifts with teak and rosewood, will take notice. This loose, though pleasant, practice must be pretermitted. Even the shingling of tunnel roofs must cease.

"Are your stopes and bins properly adjusted for cheap handling of tonnage? *Every fifty cents per ton you save in handling is that much gain.*" What do you think of that! Little had we imagined that the meticulous mind of modern man could pare down expenses by imponderable and petty half-dollars. And the half-dollar saved is the half-dollar gained! Precious, pertinent fact! But let us hasten to gather more manna e'en at risk of a surfeit.

"And most important your underground work, Are you following the *proper ledge*? Are your surveys right? Can your *men* figure out faults, or ore *chutes* on the vein? Do they understand what *make* deposits of ore? Can they *make* proper assay samples of the ledge, or are they accustomed to picking out *alluminizing* samples from here and there." O joy! Our vocabulary is enlarged by one good word, "alluming," a hybrid, no doubt, but *what* a hybrid! Can't you see that from the illicit union of "al-lur-ring" and "il-luming" this beauteous result is obtained? And how many of us really *do* understand what "*make* deposits of ore?"

Sad to say we can spare no more space for this lesson. Nor shall we have occasion again to refer to it. So preternaturally knowing a person as our friend cannot remain long in this climate. In his own words, the last we shall quote, he has attained "*maxim* capacity." Incidentally, there would be no further need of the *Canadian Mining Journal*, if this fount of wisdom, this ineffable oracle, the Solomon of experts, were to undam the flood of his learning.

MINE REPORTS.

In our old school geographies the populations of cities, large and small, of provinces, of states, and of nations were recorded with appalling exactness—not *accuracy*. For instance, London's denizens were enumerated down to the last odd figure before the decimal point, quite regardless of the busy midwife and the energetic undertaker.

This passion for exactness is carried through into many spheres of life. It is manifestly present in the profession of mining engineering. One phase of this is dealt with by Mr. F. Percy Rolfe in a paper, "Illogical Precision in Mine Reports," read recently before the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy.

Mr. Rolfe remarks first upon the "prevalent custom of expressing large tonnages to the extreme accuracy of a single ton, and of reporting mine assays to ex-