

terminology and the subject matter of the volume. If this is absent the sense of proportion is wanting, important matters are apt to be slighted and trifling ones given too much space. The General Index, being the work of one man only, and being compiled, not from the indexes of the separate volumes, but from the text of the Reports themselves, is uniform in plan throughout, and is made with an adequate knowledge of geology, mineralogy, palaeontology, metallurgy, mining and the other sciences and subjects which form the bulk of the matter contained in the several Reports. In some measure it is more than an index; it is a summary of the information which the Reports comprise and will, it is hoped, by making the results obtained by the Bureau more accessible, render them more useful.

It will probably be found that the Index contains mistakes. The reports themselves are not free from mistakes. Errors creep in through defects of memory, manuscript and proof-reading. Statements accepted in good faith at second-hand, when traced to their original source, are found to have been incorrectly quoted or condensed, and errors of fact occasionally occur for which reasonable explanation is wanting. Even broken or imperfect type or incorrect spelling may lead to inaccuracy of statement. Machine-set type is prolific of inaccuracies, since the correction of one printer's error, especially if the number of lines be increased or diminished, may necessitate the re-setting of a whole paragraph, in which fresh errors may be made, requiring fresh corrections.

The Bureau's Reports have one and all been prepared, edited and proof-read, with much care, and the number of errors, small and great, is probably not in excess of what would be found in any other sixteen volumes of similar character. Wherever possible, errors in orthography or nomenclature have been corrected in the Index. If mistakes are detected in the Index itself, the Bureau will be glad to be notified of them, so that they may be rectified in any subsequent edition.

The earlier volumes of the Bureau are entirely out of print, and indeed this is the case with many of the later volumes as well. The only report of which any considerable number of copies remains on hand is the Tenth, printed in 1901. An extra edition was published for distribution at the Pan-American Exposition, held at Buffalo, N.Y., in that year, of which some hundreds are still left.

The Bureau has from the beginning supplied its Reports to a considerable number of public and educational institutions, such as universities, technical colleges, engineering societies, etc., not only in Canada, but also in the United States and Great Britain, so that full sets of its volumes may be consulted in many, if not all, of the leading cities and centres of the mining industry in these countries. To all such copies of the General Index will be sent. It is no longer possible to supply full, or even reasonably complete sets of the reports, but the Bureau will be glad to fill up gaps in public and private libraries to the extent of its ability.

Owing to the fact of the earlier volumes being difficult to procure, the Index has been made more complete than would otherwise have been deemed necessary in the hope that the information supplied may, in many cases, be a useful substitute for that contained in the volumes themselves.

The edition of the General Index is limited to one thousand copies, and is bound in linen cloth.

It only remains to say that the author of the Index, Mr. Frank [redacted] of Ottawa, has performed his task with rare assiduity, diligence and success. His qualifications for the work have proven all that could be desired.

Your obedient servant,

THOS. W. GIBSON,  
Deputy Minister of Mines

Office of the Bureau of Mines,  
Toronto, 26 January, 1909.