

to allow their claims to lie idle. This, however, by the way.

What we wish to indicate is that almost daily we receive enquiries for ores of tungsten, molybdenum, manganese, antimony, etc., etc. For the first two there is a very marked demand.

We shall, therefore, be glad to hear from owners of mineral properties who are either prepared to ship ore, or have prospected their areas sufficiently to know what they have.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY—1907.

The despatch with which the Geological Survey of Canada has issued the summary of its labors during 1907 is creditable to all concerned. Its early appearance has set a pace that should be followed by Provincial Departments.

Unlike its predecessors, the summary for 1907 is a short, succinct resume. Formerly the annual summary reproduced a full account of the field work and investigations of the staff. The 1907 summary is a departure. It is an actual summary. It presents a concise outline of operations in the field and in the laboratory. Heretofore the summary has, in a sense, duplicated the various individual reports that were to appear later. Hence it was valuable to the general public, especially if the separate reports happened to be delayed, as was often the case.

Now, however, the case is different. The publication of a summary within a fortnight of the close of the old year, makes it incumbent upon the Survey to complete and issue the reports of its geologists and specialists at a very early date. Otherwise the public will be kept waiting for information that is of utmost importance.

In short, the Survey has set a pace not only for the Provinces, but for itself. This excellent summary will be meaningless unless the reports of each of last summer's geological parties is promptly forthcoming.

Meanwhile we congratulate the Minister of Mines on this new indication of efficiency.

A WESTERN BRANCH OF THE C.M.I.

On another page are given full particulars of the organization of a Western Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute at Nelson.

In the selection of its officers this offshoot of the present Institute has been particularly fortunate. Mr. A. B. W. Hodges is president, and Mr. E. Jacobs is secretary. Mr. Hodges is one of the outstanding figures in the mining circles of British Columbia. Mr. Jacobs, the able and fearless editor of the British Columbia *Mining Record*, is probably the best unofficial authority on Western mining affairs. Under his management the *Record* has proved itself a clean, reliable journal. Mr.

Jacobs will undoubtedly perform the duties of his office with enthusiasm and discretion.

The remoteness of British Columbia mining centres from the East has made it impossible for many of the members residing in that Province to attend the annual meetings of the Institute. For this reason the Western Branch has been organized. Western members will now be able to meet for discussion of matters of moment whenever necessary. They will be enabled to deal promptly and weightedly with local issues and, at the same time, their support and advice will be of greater value to the parent institution.

LEAD BOUNTIES.

A petition, signed by practically all the owners and managers of silver-lead mines in East and West Kootenay, is about to be presented to the Dominion Government. The petitioners ask for an extension of the lead bounties.

Originally the Government appropriated \$2,500,000 for the purpose of assisting the lead industry. This sum was to have been paid out in five annual payments of \$500,000. The bounty period of five years expires in June of this year. So far, owing to restrictive conditions attached to bounty payments, only \$600,000 has been paid out.

It is claimed with justice that the Dominion Government, having given a moribund industry a new lease of life, cannot now withdraw its aid. Additional force is lent to this argument by the consideration that only a fraction of the original appropriation has been expended. The lead producers are therefore approaching the Government with entire confidence that their reasonable request for an extension of the lead bounty will not be refused.

INSPIRED "NEWS."

An item has been going the rounds of the press, and has unfortunately been reproduced in one or two technical journals, to the effect that a "corps of government engineers" employed by the "Dominion Government" had undertaken to solve the question of the depth and persistence of the silver deposits of the Cobalt districts. The item is untrue. Whatever basis some of the statements may have in fact is not a matter of public information. But the paragraph in question was written by an irresponsible person, who was either designedly misinformed or was himself untruthful. The question of the depth of Cobalt veins is working itself out every day. There is, however, no short cut to knowledge of this sort.

Neither the Ontario Government nor the Dominion Government has done any diamond drilling on the Gillies limit.