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FLOTATION PATENTS.

Aside from the suspicion of German control it is questionable whether the Minerals Separation patents are now of any great value in Canada. In our issue of Oct. 15, we pointed out that Canadian laws allow only a reasonable royalty and that the Minerals Separation corporations can hardly expect to be as successful in Canadian courts as in United States courts. We stated that if the American corporation threatens Canadian users of the process with claims for excessive amounts it must be only bluffing. It is provided under Section 44 of the Canadian Patent Act that in case a patentee refuses to grant licenses to others on reasonable terms, anyone may apply to the Commissioner of Patents for a license to make, use or sell the patented invention. As the claims of the Minerals Separation corporation and the conditions under which it issues licenses are unreasonable, it is obvious that Canadian Mining companies have good reason to assume that an application to the Commissioner would be successful.

THE REPORT ON IRON ORE OCCURRENCES.

We have just received from the Department of Mines the first volume of a report on "Iron Ore Occurrences in Canada." The report is a timely one, for there has seldom been so good a demand for iron ore as at present. Many enquiries concerning Canadian deposits are being made, and this description of the principal iron ore mines, few of which are now being worked, will help to answer questions that are being asked. The report was compiled by E. Lindeman and L. L. Bolton. The introductory chapter was written by A. H. A. Robinson.

Unfortunately, there has been great waste in the printing of this report, as in other reports printed in the Government Printing Bureau. Some time ago we referred to the waste of paper in reports of the Mines Branch. In this little book of 90 pages, 30 is pure waste. There is only 60 pages of printed matter and the book is padded out by 30 blank pages. Moreover, some of the photographs, such as III, are so poor that we wonder why they were used at all. Others, such as X, that contain objects of interest have not been properly used. If the useless photographs had been discarded and only those parts of the others that illustrate the text used, there would have been even less than 60 pages needed. Moreover, increased usefulness as well as saving in space would have been obtained by running the illustrations with the text.

THE RESOURCES COMMISSION.

In his letter addressed to the editor of the Bulletin of the Canadian Mining Institute, Mr. Geo. Mackenzie asks a question concerning our criticism of the circular sent out by the Munition Resources Commission.

Mr. Mackenzie wants to know to what end we are making argument. He is entitled to a frank reply and we will endeavor to be brief.

We believe that the work undertaken by the Munition Resources Commission could best be performed by a committee composed of representatives of the Federal and Provincial mining departments and the Canadian Mining Institute. We believe that the Commission, except along certain lines, is out of touch with the work of these departments, is poorly informed concerning our known deposits, and is not the proper organization to gather information. The Commission, if it wishes, might have a representative on a War Minerals Committee, but it should not undertake to itself act as the committee. Mr. Mackenzie would be a valuable man on such a committee, as the representative of the Commission or the Mines Branch. We believe further that we have all the necessary machinery for gathering information concerning our mineral resources and that it decreases rather than increases the efficiency of the machinery to have Commissions, such as the Munition Resources Commission, undertaking to do work which has been or can be better done by the established organizations.