

merely to remind our readers of its existence. But we cannot close without reference to the indomitable pluck, patience, and farsightedness of the man who first exploited the field, and whose sagacious leadership is bringing the whole enterprise to a successful issue. That man is Mr. Mathew Lodge. Not only has Mr. Lodge brought this boon to Moncton, but he has done much in other directions to assist the community in which he lives. The manufacturer will be enriched by Mr. Lodge's work; the farmer will cut his fuel bill in half or in quarter; but, best of all, the weary housewife will rise up and call him blessed. And, by the same token, we hope that Mr. Lodge and his associates will always make it their policy to favour strongly the domestic consumer.

A PORTFOLIO OF MINES AT OTTAWA.

From Ottawa has lately come news, unofficial as yet but bearing in form some family resemblance to politic newspaper "feeler." It is to the effect that the Dominion Government, during the forthcoming session, is to create a separate Portfolio of Mines. This implies, of course, that one responsible Minister will assume all the duties of the Department and will devote all of his time to those duties. Not only has the Canadian Mining Institute formally urged this change, not only has *The Canadian Mining Journal* repeatedly expressed the conviction that the present condition of affairs could not be continued without injury to the country, but the mining public has long recognized that things administrative at Ottawa were specifically wrong as regards mining. Therefore, we believe that the creation of the new Portfolio will be welcomed without a dissentient voice. And we further believe that the Hon. Mr. Rogers will breathe a sigh of relief at being freed from departmental details that cannot be otherwise than burdensome to a Minister already loaded to capacity.

The Dominion Government may safely take it for granted that no step could meet with more wholesale approval. They may also take it for granted that any objections raised should be totally disregarded.

Mining is the second industry of Canada. Verbum sap.

NOVA SCOTIAN COAL OUTPUTS.

Never has the coal trade of Nova Scotia been in a more encouraging condition. Comparing the first half of the year 1912 with the corresponding period in 1911, we find that the Dominion Coal Company, which is by far the largest shipper, has shipped 248,645 tons more this year than last. At the end of June, 1912, the company's shipments amounted to 1,819,089 tons; last year the total was only 1,570,444 tons. These figures do not include the output of the Springhill collieries, now under the control of the Dominion people, where the shipments have been brought up from 45,893 tons, to 176,622 tons, an increase of 130,729 tons.

At the Inverness mines a small advance is recorded—132,331 tons this year, as compared with 130,992 tons

last year. The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company reports a gratifying advance of 58,509 tons—327,210 tons this year, as against 268,701 tons last year.

On the other hand the Acadia Coal Company and the Interecolonial Coal Company have failed to reach last year's figures, the decreases being, respectively, 12,051 tons and 16,228 tons. The net increase, exclusive of several smaller collieries not referred to, therefore, during the first six months of this year is 410,943.

At this rate of growth Nova Scotia's output of coal during 1912 will come close to 8,000,000 tons, whereas last year it was less than 7,000,000 tons. An expansion of 12 per cent. is remarkably healthy.

As indicating future possibilities, the feasibility of shipping fuel from Sydney to Toronto to supply the pressing needs of certain civic departments, is being discussed.

PUBLICITY FOR THE GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

Widespread advertisement is being given the Toronto Meeting of the Twelfth International Geological Congress, to be held here in August, 1913. In referring to this meeting, the Financial Times, London, urges upon its readers the importance of the event, and alludes very pleasantly to Canadian hospitality.

Apart from such newspaper notices, the publicity that each Canadian mining man can give the Congress is needed. Individual and personal interest must be roused and sustained. The Government and the railway corporations are doing their duty nobly. To supplement the support thus vouchsafed, every member of the Canadian Mining Institute should be a walking advertisement of the Congress. The Toronto Meeting and the numerous excursions may be rendered the most effective stimulus possible for the mining industry of Canada.

THE COALFIELDS OF ALBERTA.

Commenting on Mr. D. B. Dowling's estimate of the quantity of coal available in the coalfields of Alberta, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, in an article to the Mining Journal, thus points out that with such sources of wealth lying ready to hand, it is astonishing that so little development work has been undertaken. Two points become at once apparent to the investigator who is searching for some explanation of this condition of affairs. The first is that the coals seem to have been worked only where they actually appear at the outcrop. There are large untouched areas where fuel of the highest quality can be proved to exist, areas lying directly between successful mines and traversed by main lines of railways, and yet no attempt has ever been made to develop them, simply because a covering of drift or gravel masks all the solid strata, and no coal seams are visible to attract the enterprising prospector. The first mining ventures are often, it is to be feared, conducted in an amateur fashion. Thus the second point: that in many cases a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy has