

degree, no matter what his qualifications may be, is not justified in suffixing them to his name.

The degree of M.E. does not always imply that a man is a mining engineer. The raw college product has much to learn when he leaves college behind him. On the other hand, many men who have no degrees at all are sound mining engineers. The raw college product can honestly use the M.E. The experienced, but degreeless, engineer cannot use it.

We believe that the experienced mining man, provided he has actually operated mines, can fairly append the words "mining engineer" to his name. This implies that he is capable of directing mining operations. But, unless he wishes to follow the example of charlatans and imposters, he will not take liberties with the initials.

BRIQUETTING IRON ORES.

So many already opened Canadian iron ore deposits fall short of market requirements that mechanical concentration will sooner or later become an absolute necessity. The comminution and concentration of these ores implies in most cases the further step of briquetting. Finely-divided ore, fed into a modern furnace tends to cause scaffolding and to induce gas explosions; and where the furnace gases are utilized for driving gas-engines the objection to fines is more marked.

Iron ore briquettes, to withstand the vicissitudes of transportation, must be strong and compact. To suit the requirements of the blast-furnace they must be sufficiently porous and must not crumble when subjected to high temperatures. Moreover, the process should not be costly. These and other considerations are discussed in a paper read before the Iron and Steel Institute by Mr. C. De Schwarz, and reprinted on another page.

The conclusions reached by Mr. De Schwarz are interesting. He believes that a universally acceptable method of briquetting fine iron ore has not yet been invented, and probably never will be. Further, he states that present methods are commercially practicable only in special surroundings and conditions.

It would appear that the whole district of briquetting requires closer study. The applicability of any one process to a given ore does not imply that other ores can be similarly treated.

BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL MINE INSPECTION.

The British Columbia Department of Mines requires its mine inspectors to enforce its laws, particularly in regard to operation of coal mines. Lately, at Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, a special commissioner thoroughly investigated a charge brought against mine foreman David McKinnell for not having taken the steps required of him, in the discharge of his duty as foreman, to secure the removal of discovered gas in No. 3 mine, Extension colliery, owned by the Canadian Collieries, (Dunsmuir), Limited. The charge was brought by James S. Black, who made complaint that McKinnell

had unfairly deprived him of his position of fire boss because he had reported the presence of inflammable gas in a working place. The commissioner, after hearing much evidence, decided that McKinnell had been guilty of gross negligence, in consequence of which he found him unfit to discharge his duties as overman, and required him to surrender his second-class certificate of competency, which was thereupon cancelled. The necessity for a strict observance of the coal mining regulations is persistently urged by the mine inspectors. An explosion took place in one of the Extension colliery mines on October 5th, 1909, and resulted in the death of 32 miners. This disaster emphasized the necessity for unremitting watchfulness in the mines there, as gas is found in them from time to time.

PHOTOGRAPHY AGAIN.

Generalizations are unsafe. In our last issue we congratulated McGill University upon establishing a course in photography. At the same time we remarked that we believed McGill to be the first Canadian educational institution to move in this direction.

We now learn that at the School of Practical Science, Toronto University, the chemistry and optics of photography have been a part of the engineering course for many years. Laboratory work and lectures on practical photography have been an integral part of all courses in engineering for at least five years and have been optional for a longer period.

Our apologies are due the School of Practical Science. May its shadow never grow less! May its negatives always be as welcome as that above, and may its proofs be as substantial! Also may it develop and fix itself even more firmly!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Nelson, B.C., Board of Trade is addressing itself to the question of the increasing freight rate on coal. It is claimed that the rate on coal should at least be as low as that on wheat. As a matter of fact it should be considerably lower. Wheat is hauled 1,200 miles for about \$4.80 per ton. Consumers of coal at Nelson pay a rate for a 330-mile haul equivalent to the rate on wheat for about 500 miles. Moreover, flour, worth much more per ton than wheat, is hauled at the same rate as the latter. When it is remembered that coal supplies the most constant source of freight, and that wheat is only a seasonal freight, the disparity becomes more marked.

The British House of Lords is to be called upon to decide an important dispute between the De Beers diamond company and the Chartered Company of South Africa. The former company is the plaintiff. In 1892 it advanced \$1,060,000 to the Chartered Company. This was paid back in 1896. It had been stipulated in 1892 that the De Beers company should be given exclusive diamond rights in Rhodesia. The Chartered Company claims that this agreement lapsed in 1896. The plaintiff