

But since there necessarily is a certain amount of uncertainty as to the precise time at which a complete annual report can be made ready, we would recommend strongly the distribution of unbound interim reports and of bulletins. The bulletins issued by the United States Geological Survey and those distributed for a time by the Dominion Survey are of questionable value. They are primarily intended for immediate transcription by the press and may be incidentally useful. But we are of opinion that reports upon important mining districts should be completed, printed and distributed with all possible speed.

The Provincial reports of mining operations are all fairly comprehensive. The British Columbian report conveniently lists the mining companies. It is well illustrated and creditably put together. Ontario's reports usually include a treatise, written by a specialist, on some one branch of the mining industry. Generally speaking the Ontario reports contain a greater amount of geological information than can be found in any others. In geological maps also Ontario's volumes are far ahead of the rest of Canada.

Quebec and Nova Scotia, especially the former, issue reports that are, both in appearance and in contents, absurdly slim and inadequate. For this the Governments and not the heads of the respective Departments, must take the responsibility. We have no doubt that the Departments of Mines in both Provinces spend all available money on their reports. But when the annual records of a mining Province like Nova Scotia can be disposed of in a cheap paper bound pamphlet of a few score pages, accompanied by neither maps nor illustrations, there is something radically wrong. To a less degree this may also be said of Quebec. Quebec, more than any of her sister Provinces, needs a presentable, carefully edited annual mining report. Therefore she must assuredly make larger appropriations for this purpose.

In one sense it is true that the excellence of the official Departmental report on mining is a function of the progress of a country's mining industry. The importance, the absolute necessity of giving to the world year by year and, we would add, in some cases month by month, authentic official records of investigations, discoveries, exploration and progress cannot be gainsaid. Money spent in such work is bread cast upon the waters. But the bread must be cast at high tide.

### IRON SMELTERS FOR TORONTO

An offer has been submitted to the City of Toronto by the Moose Mountain Mining Company. The company promises to erect large smelters on a part of Ashbridge marsh if the city will grant them the ownership of 350 acres. This is the only condition. No bonus is asked. The company, whose spokesman is Mr. D. D. Mann, of Mackenzie & Mann, has entire confidence in its ability to carry out its plan. The land asked for is worthless in its present condition—as its name implies. To redeem

it, to lay foundations for large furnaces with a proposed aggregate capacity of 700 or 800 tons of pig iron per day, would occupy at least a year. Another eighteen or twenty-four months would elapse before the furnaces, stores, coke ovens, ore handling machinery could be put into working order. The prospect entails an expenditure of several million dollars for a plant to produce only pig iron. If steel is to be made larger sums will be necessary. Directly and indirectly the carrying out of this bold but perfectly practicable enterprise will mean the creation of a new industrial town within the city limits of Toronto and the employment of several thousand workmen.

The proposal has been enthusiastically received by the Toronto newspapers. Indeed it has met and will meet the approval of all thoughtful citizens.

Toronto will receive in exchange for a number of acres of marsh land an industry for which she would be justified in paying millions of dollars.

### THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

The Secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute returned recently to Montreal from an official visit to British Columbia. As will have been seen by the list published in our last issue, many new members were added to the membership of the Institute. Such visits are to be encouraged. We should see the Secretary more frequently in Ontario. Nova Scotia should also be regularly on the visiting list. An official visit, giving as it does an opportunity for personal explanations of the Institute's aims and objects, is more valuable than any number of typewritten communications. However, the Secretary deserves praise and commendation for the good results of his tour of the West. We hope that the time will soon come when the most important official of the Institute will be free to visit all parts of Canada once every six months. On this point we are to publish presently several communications.

### BORROWED PLUMAGE

A subscriber has sent us a document that makes most painful reading. It is an appeal to Queen's University men to subscribe for the stock of the Combined Gold Fields, Limited. The letter is signed by Alfred Fitzpatrick, B.A., a graduate of Queen's. The stationery, as may be seen by referring to the half-tone reproduction on this page, is that of the Reading Camp Association. The names of prominent citizens appear thereon. Naturally these names have nothing to do with the Combined Gold Fields, Limited. Naturally, also, the average reader of the letter will be influenced by the fact that such names do appear.

Mr. John Sharp, late a lecturer in moral philosophy at Queen's University, is referred to as a director of the company and as general manager. Shares of a par value of \$1 each are urged upon Queen's men at the price of