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CONTENTS.

Editorials	717
(a) The National Mine Safety Demonstration	717
(b) Fabre Township, Quebec	718
(c) The Clays and Shales of Nova Scotia	719
(d) The Value of a Boom	719
(e) Editorial Notes	720
Correspondence	720
Personal and General	721
Concentration at Hudson Bay Mines, by H. G. Young	722
A Neglected Field, by F. P. Ronnon	725
Meeting of American Mining Congress, by T. W. Gibson	727
The Use of the Pulmotor, by E. T. Corkill	728
Stock Value and Mine Value (Continued), by Dr. A. C. Lane	729
Electrical Accidents in Mines, by H. H. Clark	731
High Grade Ore Deposits in Portland Canal	735
Minerals Found in Slocan District, by Wm. Thomlinson	737
Cuban Iron Ore Deposits, by Dwight E. Woodbridge	738
Industrial Section	742
Special Correspondence	743

THE NATIONAL MINE SAFETY DEMONSTRATION.

When the final history of social evolution is written, the first decade of the twentieth century will be noted as remarkable for the expansion of humanitarian movements.

Of all industries, that of mining has had to bear the obloquy of having the largest fatality rate. This damaging public belief is not founded on fact. The rate of casualties per one thousand men employed is higher in both the railroad business, and in the structural steel trade.

It is gratifying to know that in no industry other than mining is such radical action being taken to correct and control conditions that make for high fatality rates. In European countries, particularly in Germany, the government authorities have made it obligatory upon mine operators to provide amply for the comfort, moral well-being, health, and safety of the miner. Canada and the United States have fallen far short of the standard set by trans-Atlantic countries. So far as corporations are concerned, it is probable that among the coal mining companies the credit of the first systematic use of breathing-apparatus belongs to the Dominion Coal Company. Somewhat over four years ago that company established at Glace Bay a completely equipped life-saving station.

It remained, however, for the United States Government to take the initiative as a government. Last year, after the Technologic Branch of the Geological Survey had been organized as the Bureau of Mines, under the direction of Dr. J. A. Holmes, there was begun a national movement the object of which was to educate the miner in the use of first-aid methods and of breathing apparatus. Seven special cars were secured to cover the more important mining fields. These cars are used not only for demonstration purposes, but also for actual rescue work. Stations were established at various points, the large grounds of the United States Arsenal, an establishment dating back to 1814, being adapted at Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh was chosen as the scene of the late National Mine Safety Demonstration. No better place could have been selected, nor could the time have been more opportune. Pittsburgh is the centre of a large mining population. The second day of the Demonstration, coincided with the Centennial Celebration of the introduction of steam navigation on the Ohio River. The presence of President Taft and of members of his Cabinet lent eclat to the occasion.

Our readers will be given in another issue of the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL a full account of the pro-