

veins show a dip of about 25 degrees N. Their strike is roughly east and west. There is every promise of an enormous supply.

When it is remembered that the Scotch oil-shale companies pay dividends at as high rates as 50 per cent., and, further, that the New Brunswick deposits are probably more workable in every respect than the Scotch, it becomes a matter of wonder that these rich deposits have remained so long unworked.

In a later issue the Canadian Mining Journal will publish a complete account of these Canadian oil-shales.

CORPORATIONS AND POLITICS.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. and the Dominion Coal Company have issued a notice to their employees instructing them to refrain from active participation in the canvass at the approaching Federal elections. All officials of the companies are prohibited from using their official positions to influence unduly any voter. The notices state that it is expected and desired that every employee will use his vote according to his convictions.

It is well that large corporations should clear their skirts of complicity in politics. We use the word "complicity" advisedly, for it seems a fitting term as politics are conducted to-day. It is extremely undesirable that corporation officials and their policies should be dragged into the political game. Whenever this has happened the results have been anything but happy.

There are officials, and there always will be officials, who are unable to understand that any power or influence attached to their position, is the power of the corporation, and none of their own. A corporation official is the servant of his employers in his official capacity. In that capacity he may be temporal lord of thousands, but as a citizen he is the possessor of one vote, and nothing more. If he cannot divorce his official power from his position as an elector, he loses, or should lose, his usefulness to the corporation he is supposed to serve.

We think the straightforward pronouncement of the two Cape Breton corporations referred to is in every way commendable.

DOMINION COPPER.

The Dominion Copper Company, successor to the Montreal and Boston Consolidated, has applied for a receivership. Dominion Copper inherited a legacy of trouble from its predecessor. From October, 1907, until July of this year, its mines were closed. This summer, for a period of seven weeks, the plant and mines were active. Failure to make a payment of sixty thousand dollars, due on its sinking fund under terms of a mortgage held by the National Trust Company, is the immediate cause of the receivership.

The Dominion Copper Company is capitalized at \$5,000,000, in shares of \$5. It has also a bond issue of \$1,000,000, only a small amount of which has been retired.

The Dominion owns and operates five mines near Phoenix and Greenwood. It also owns some high-grade gold-silver claims. Its smelter at Boundary Falls has a daily capacity of 800 tons of copper ore.

Its largest mines, the Rawhide and the Brooklyn, are in good condition, and show heavy reserves of fair copper ore. Within the last two years large sums have been expended in plant and mine improvement. At present, therefore, the physical condition of the company's properties is apparently excellent.

Re-organization is to follow. There is every reason to believe that the Dominion Copper Company will soon resume production.

YUKON'S GOLD.

Cheering news comes from the north. Changes and improvements in the methods of hydraulicking have made possible the handling of gravels in greater quantity than heretofore. The enlarged scale upon which dredging is performed makes profitable much gold-bearing material neglected in the past. The season of work has been lengthened, power cheapened, gold recovered, gold recovery gradually improved, until the effects are tangibly expressed in a largely augmented annual gold output.

For 1907 the reported production of gold in the Yukon was \$3,150,000. The figures for 1908 will probably exceed \$5,000,000.

MOISTURE IN COKE.

The moisture contained in coke is a serious item in metallurgical works. When immersed in water, coke absorbs as much as 35 per cent. of its weight. So pronounced is this hygroscopic power that coke containing 4 to 7 per cent. moisture after quenching often is found to carry 10 to 12 per cent. when received by the purchaser. The absorption depends of course upon the humidity of the atmosphere. But the facts adduced accentuate the need of great care in quenching.

The production of quicksilver in the United States has been falling off steadily during the past five years. Where there were 20 producing mines in 1904 there are now but ten. During this period the production has decreased from 32,000 flasks of 75 lb., to about 17,000.

The singular phenomenon of hard steel being cut by a rapidly revolving disc of soft steel has been somewhat puzzling. A microscopic examination by an English engineer, F. W. Harbord, has now shown that the metal acted upon is heated nearly or quite to the melting-point of steel, but only at the point of contact with the disc.