

There is yet another equal benefit accruing to the engineer who takes thoughtfully to print. Writing clarifies the mind as nothing else can. For many it is a painful discipline; but discipline it is. The making of a well-written article involves looking up many references and consulting with as many professional friends as are available. Also the mere act of crystallizing one's thoughts on paper tends to fix what is essential and to delete what is superfluous.

Therefore we would urge Canadian mining engineers to form the habit of transferring their experience to paper, either for the purpose of publication or as a record for personal reference, or, better, to serve both these ends.

We have urged this before. Our contemporary's able editorial lends us a cogent argument wherewith to impress our point more deeply.

ONCE MORE A BOOM.

There is a tendency in well-informed circles to attribute the present boom in Cobalt stocks to the skilful tactics of certain Toronto and New York interests. That well matured plans have been formulated and carried out has been patent. Specialists in publicity, when retained by stock manipulators, do not hide their searchlight under a bushel. But, although these fluent gentlemen have undoubtedly assisted in precipitating the movement in stocks, there were other influences, far more potent, at work.

One of these was the fact that ore shipments from Cobalt during the first eight months of 1908 were greater by 4,211 tons than those for the corresponding period of 1907. The totals stand 13,217 tons for the first eight months of 1908, and 9,006 tons for 1907. If, as is probable, shipments continue at this rate, the total tonnage for 1908 will reach 20,000 tons, an increase of about forty per cent. over the preceding year. Moreover, it is possible that this tonnage may be increased, as the monthly returns have lately been growing consistently.

Last year the value per ton of ore shipped from Cobalt was approximately \$500. There is reason to believe that the ore being shipped at present is worth slightly more per ton than this. The recognized tendency of shippers to concentrate before shipping, and the bonanza character of ore from several of the mines, support this belief. Arguing from such grounds, it is apparent that at the close of 1908 Cobalt will have an annual output worth at least \$10,000,000 to her credit.

This is, naturally, a pleasant fact to contemplate. It means that steady, serious, and honest work is being done at most of the producing mines. But it also means that Cobalt is quite able to stand on her own merits. There is, therefore, no need of a flourish of trumpets. Indeed, Cobalt, as a reputable mining town, one that has already cleaned out much of the disreputable

element that clings to the skirts of new and prosperous mining communities, does not welcome the boomster.

If we read aright the signs of the times, a general reaction in the direction of better conditions is setting in. The London Stock Exchange is witnessing a rapid appreciation in South African mining shares. Activity in our own mining stocks is apparent in New York, Montreal, and Toronto. These movements could not have been entirely caused by manipulators. But, especially in this country, they can be carried to an illogical and harmful extreme by men who can command the assistance of our venal daily papers.

The public should have learned its lesson two years ago. Probably it did not. Probably, also, a boom once started will not lose its momentum until grave mischief has been wrought.

In all stock excitements the public is the chief loser. When the wave of recklessness recedes the mining industry is invariably found to be in a worse condition than it was before the boom commenced. Therefore it is the duty of all those who have the good of Canada's mining industry at heart, who wish to see our mines and smelters firmly established in the confidence of the people, to do what they can to offset the extravagant methods of imported promoters and their hirelings.

We have all the elements of success. We have rich mineral deposits, capable mining men, good markets, and, in the main, honest government administration. Our progress to be constant must be reasonably slow. There is nothing to be gained by brain-storms.

ONE COMPANY.

To mark their interest in the visit of the Canadian Mining Institute to Nova Scotia, the directors of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company issued a pamphlet in which is given a most interesting history of the beginnings and growth of their enterprises together with an account of the present condition of their plants and mines.

This is not only sound policy on the part of the Company, but is indicative of enterprise and enlightenment. The visitors, who represent the best mining interests of Canada and Europe, were deeply impressed with what they saw in Nova Scotia. But a record of the quiet and efficient development of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's undertakings is unquestionably more impressive than a mere inspection of their plants and mines in operation. When it is more fully understood that industries should be based upon organic growth and not upon the speculative hankerings of the public, then we shall have more business ventures and fewer incubated indiscretions.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company had its beginnings in a blacksmith's forge. To-day there are 4,200 men on its payroll. It owns and operates its own iron and coal mines, and pays dividends.