

TECK-HUGHES.

Teck-Hughes Mines were formally handed over to the Buffalo Mines crowd at the annual meeting of the former company held in Toronto, Sept. 17th. Mr. C. L. Denison of Buffalo was elected President and General Manager of the new company, R. W. Pomeroy of Buffalo Vice-president, H. D. Crooks of Toronto Secretary, and H. Clark of Cobalt Treasurer. The directors are A. W. Johnston and J. F. Thompson, both of New York.

By the agreement of purchase two-thirds of the issued stock of Teck-Hughes was sold to the new interests at slightly below the present market value, which is $7\frac{3}{4}$. The four by-laws brought before the company were put through. A bond issue will be made amounting to \$150,000 for working capital, which is to be taken up by those now in control.

Some time after Teck-Hughes was organized, London interests got an option on the property, and after expending \$37,500 on development work refused to take up the option. Nipissing next got an option, and after spending \$40,000 backed out because they could not agree as to the purchase price. Ore was blocked out by them, however, valued at \$350,000. Actual work is now under way, and a plant is being erected of one hundred tons capacity. The shaft on the mine is already down 265 ft., and 3,000 ft. of drifting has been done. The Teck-Hughes property lies four miles from Swastika.

FUEL SUPPLY OF THE PRAIRIES.

One of the most important problems in Canada at the present time is the provision of an adequate supply of cheap fuel for the population of our Prairie Provinces. Very large areas of these provinces are underlain by beds of subbituminous coal and lignite, which are estimated to contain 100,000,000,000 tons of these fuels. As yet, however, practically all the fuel used in that portion of the plains east of Brandon is imported from the United States, while that used in the country west of Brandon is brought chiefly from the coalfields of the Rocky mountains. This entails a long and expensive haul, which results in a high-priced fuel, and any temporary interruption of the supply gives rise to a coal famine.

The reason why the mineral fuels of the plains have not been utilized is that they are expensive to mine, owing to the absence of supplies of mine timber on the treeless prairies; they are also of a lower grade than the coal from the Rocky mountains, containing a large percentage of moisture. They thus have a lower heating value than the fuels from the mountains, and furthermore when they are exposed to the atmosphere after being mined, they dry out to a certain extent, and in so doing crumble to pieces or even fall to powder, so that they cannot be readily handled and will not bear transportation. Such being the case, if these fuels are to be made available for household use, they must be briquetted, or if they are to be used for manufacturing purposes, they must be either briquetted or used in gas producers.

A series of trials of Canadian fuels, recently carried out by Dr. J. B. Porter and Prof. Durley of McGill University for the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines at Ottawa, show that these fuels of the plains are excellently adapted for use in the gas producer and are thus well suited for the

production of power. The question as to whether they can be briquetted, when necessary, at a sufficiently low cost to make the enterprise commercially profitable, has not yet been established. Fuels of this general type are briquetted in Germany, on an enormous scale, and the United States Bureau of Mines is now investigating the possibility of briquetting the lignites of North Dakota. Any lignite can, of course, be briquetted if a suitable binding material is employed. This however, entails additional expense, but many of the German lignites and some of those occurring in North Dakota can be briquetted without the addition of any binding material. It is thus very important that an investigation should at once be made into the question as to whether there are not, among the great deposits of fuel underlying the Canadian plains and outcropping on their surface, some at least which can be worked for the production of a cheap briquetted fuel which will stand transportation, and thus supply a need ever more insistent as the population of the Prairie Provinces increases.—Dr. Frank D. Adams, at 1915 Annual Meeting of Commission of Conservation.

AMERICAN MINES AND WORKS DIVIDENDS.

With an even 100 companies participating, there were dividends amounting to \$44,708,963 paid to stockholders of American mines and works during the first 8 months of 1915, according to reports made to Mining and Engineering World. While this record is considerably below that paid during the same period in 1914, there is every indication that the remaining 4 months will witness record-breaking dividend disbursements, which will bring the total for the year to as large a figure as that for 1914.

What with heavy demands for the various metals at much higher prices than a year ago, and with a promise of a continued demand for some time to come, matters pertaining to the mining industry in general are particularly promising.

The 100 companies participating in the above disbursements have an excellent record in that they have paid dividends since incorporation of \$917,540,919, on an issued capitalization of \$702,510,525.

Of the above, 28 are copper properties, all but one operated in the United States, and they participated in the present year's disbursements to the extent of \$18,508,417. Since incorporation these companies have paid dividends totaling \$446,450,651. Issued capital totals \$243,818,550.

Fifty-one of the above companies operate gold-silver-lead-zinc properties and their disbursements for the 8 months total \$13,785,857, and since incorporation \$213,390,336. Eighteen are Canadian properties, with disbursements to their credit during the 8 months' period of \$3,618,196, and since incorporation \$56,865,715. But three Mexican companies report as having paid dividends in 1915, they having paid but \$652,821.

Six metallurgical companies have had a prosperous year, for they have divided among shareholders so far this year \$8,249,672. Since incorporation their combined disbursements total \$173,859,281.

Six securities-holding corporations have distributed dividends so far this year amounting to \$9,571,048, and since incorporation \$186,513,767.