

he has collected several hundred instances of the association of oil with igneous rocks.

One territorial geologist makes a suggestion to the effect that volcanoes and explosive earthquakes have a direct connection with petroleums. "The immense volume of smoke emitted at times suggests the presence of volatile hydrocarbons, fluid or gaseous. . . . Explosive mixtures of air and gas may account for many earthquakes. I am inclined to the view that volcanoes are the results rather than the cause of petroleums. . . . We cannot exclude water and steam as active agents in vulcanism; but we must admit the powerful agency of explosive mixtures of gas and air."

A distinguished Mexican geologist alludes to the immense practical importance of a clear understanding of the "inorganic" theory in developing new fields. He heartily endorses Mr. Coste's position.

After reading more than a score of letters of this kind, one is led to believe that the tendency amongst our leading geologists is to accept more fully the theory of which Mr. Coste has been so ardent a supporter. This is a matter of no little importance, in view of the fact that the industrial world is becoming every day more dependent upon petroleum and its products. It bears directly upon the exploitation of our petroleum and gas fields.

Incidentally it must be most gratifying to Mr. Coste, who for some years has played a lone hand, to find that his supporters are becoming more numerous every day.

MEXICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGY.

Bulletin No. 1 of the Mexican Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (Instituto Mexicano De Minas Y Metalurgia) has just been received. It is a most commendable production.

Mexican cyanide practice has set a standard for the world. In the United States cyanidation is admittedly less advanced than in the southern republic, and, on the Rand, Mexican practice has been copied.

Hence it is with especial pleasure that we observe that two of the three papers included in Bulletin No. 1 treat of cyanidation. The first of these two, "A Proposed New System for the Cyanide Treatment of Slimes," is reprinted in this issue of the Canadian Mining Journal. The second, "Cyanidation of Concentrates," is a suggestive synopsis of a paper by A. Goothe.

The proceedings and papers are printed both in Spanish and English. This duplication of languages should be highly educative. The Canadian mining student must acquire a knowledge of Spanish if he is to become a well-rounded mining man. The Bulletin of the Mexican Institute will prove an invaluable aid in this.

The Canadian Mining Journal wishes the newly organized society a vigorous and prosperous life. Its

objects are wholesome. It has made a good start.

We may express here the hope that close relations may be established between the Canadian Mining Institute and its sister society. Prosit!

SILVER COINAGE.

Throughout Canada the silver coins of the United States are accepted at par. On the other hand, except in towns near the international boundary, Canadian coins are either refused in the United States or accepted at a large discount.

There is a Canadian law providing for the deportation of United States coins. Apparently this law is inoperative. Why it should be, we do not know. But it is obvious that until this is made effective, the Royal Mint at Ottawa cannot make headway. The seignorage on coining silver is large, because of the disparity between the face value of silver coins and their actual worth as silver. With a large output of silver coins, the Royal Mint would pay handsomely. There appears to be little reason why our whole demand should not be supplied from Ottawa. It is certain that with a sufficient Canadian coinage much of the United States silver now in circulation here would be displaced.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The sixth general meeting of members of the Western branch of the Canadian Mining Institute was opened at Nelson, B.C., on September 25. The Council of the Branch, having accepted the invitation of the American Institute of Mining Engineers to adjourn to Spokane, will join that body's discussion and proceedings there.

The Sheep Creek gold camp, a few miles east of Rossland, is giving promise of wealth. The camp is yet in its infancy. But substantial working profits have been made in small stamp-mill operations, and there is sound reason to cherish the expectation that Sheep Creek will have a prosperous life. Transportation of ore will be facilitated by the construction of a Government bridge across the Columbia River at Rock Creek. It is possible, also, that electric power will be furnished within a reasonable time.

The flow of European capital to Alberta and British Columbia is heavy. Heavy investments in coal and timber lands are the order of the day. Heretofore United States capital has preponderated in new investments. Now, however, British, French, and German investors are most active. Two or three late mining transactions can be traced directly to interest aroused by the excursion of the Canadian Mining Institute last year.