

to be abandoned at 1840 feet, without reaching the lower Cretaceous (supposed oil bearing rock). A private well near Morinville is now down, somewhere near 1900 feet, without reaching it, and two wells near Calgary are down 3,400 feet, without reaching it. It is only fair to state, however, that at Calgary there is a greater thickness of overlying formation than is to be expected near Edmonton. At Pelican, 150 miles north, there is only about 800 feet of overlying formations to penetrate, and going eastward the overburden also rapidly thins down."

In short, we may safely conclude that Mr. Maddock and his associates are trading upon the exploration work, actually being done in Alberta by competent men. A conclusion even more safe for Mr. Maddock is that it is time for him to shut up shop.

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

Two years have passed since the Council of the Institute decided to publish the technical papers contributed by its members in the form of a regular quarterly bulletin. The experiment was eyed with disfavour by not a few. It was considered that the annual volume satisfied all needs, and the added expense was unnecessary.

However, the judgment of the Council has been vindicated. The Quarterly Bulletin, has not only been well received, but it has kept interest continuously alive. It has bridged the twelvemonth gap between meetings.

We have before us Bulletin No. 8, for December, 1909. Its contents warrant more than casual commendation. Within its covers are no less than fifteen papers. Papers that in all essentials conform to the highest standards.

Particularly impressive is the variety of topics presented. Shaft sinking, ore sampling, coal, copper, iron, chrome, dynamite, are among the subjects indicated by the titles. Several essays on general questions are to be found. In fact this diversity is a most marked and creditable feature of this particular bulletin, also it is exceedingly difficult to attain. Only suffering editors know the depths to which the average mining man will descend rather than write an article. He promises with fervour. He postpones with equal fervour. But perform he will not except as a dernier ressort. Yellow bate allures him not. Therefore, when Mr. Secretary Lamb lands a basketful of fine fish on bare hooks we take off our hat.

Eight of the fifteen papers are contributed by students. We have compared these with the student papers of former years, and we have no hesitation in declaring in favour of this year's crop.

The gold medal, awarded annually to the student whose paper is considered worthiest, was this year

awarded to Mr. N. L. Bowen, of the Kingston School of Mining. The second and third prizes went to McGill students. The task of judging the essays must have been peculiarly trying.

The policy of inciting students to honourable competition is wise. The Institute can hardly overdo this.

As for the other papers, it suffices to say that they are uniformly good. Noticeably timely is Dr. Fernow's "The Relation of Mining to Forestry." This and other papers we shall discuss more fully at another time.

It is only necessary to add that praise is due Mr. Lamb for the care and discrimination with which he has edited the Bulletin. The Canadian Mining Institute has every reason to be proud of its publications.

AN INDISCREET OFFICIAL.

Discretion is a virtue without which a Government official cannot thrive. Dominion officials are paid servants of the nation. Dr. Eugene Haanel occupies a very responsible and important position. He is Director of the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines. In this capacity his duty is to aid the mining industry to the best of his ability.

A few days ago, at Ottawa, Dr. Haanel publicly criticized the metallurgical methods of the Canadian Copper Company. His criticisms were strong and, we believe, unjust. But, in any case, Dr. Haanel has neither the right nor the technical knowledge to offer criticisms on one of the most modern and most effective metallurgical plants.

Before going further, we may state that we hold no brief for the Canadian Copper Company. Our columns are open to any fair comments on that company. Our position, however, is this: Dr. Haanel, as a public servant, has openly attacked a large industry. Dr. Haanel has therefore laid himself and his Branch of the Department of Mines open to criticism. And incidentally, there is evidence of growing dissatisfaction with the work of the Mines Branch. It now devolves upon Dr. Haanel to substantiate in detail his strictures upon the methods of the Canadian Copper Company. He must show cause, or make instant retraction. We need hardly point out that the Hon. Mr. Templeman, as Dr. Haanel's immediate superior, is strictly accountable for the vagaries of his subordinate.

We shall look forward to Dr. Haanel's explanation with much interest.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

Government returns concerning the freight traffic on Canadian railways throw light upon the part that mining plays in the industrial life of the Dominion.

During the year ended June 30, 1909, the total freight carried on the 24,104 miles of Canadian railways amounted to 66,842,258 tons—formidable figures indeed. We find under the heading "Products of Mines" 35.81