

There are many reputable Canadians, of course, whose European connections permit them to lay proposals for investment before foreign investors. Our correspondent's strictures are not meant for them.

A NEW MILL.

In South Africa the Giesecke mill, a new modification of the tube-mill, is being tried out by the Mines Trials Committee.

The manufacturers of the mill claim that one Giesecke, with a capacity corresponding to 50 to 60 stamps, costs less than one-half the price of a stamp-mill of the same capacity.

The trial of the Giesecke is being conducted at the Geldenhins Estate. Here 50 stamps are hung up and the ore is being diverted to the Giesecke. The ore is in lumps as large as 7-inch cubes. The pulp at the discharge end of the mill is so fine that more than 80 per cent. passes a 200-mesh screen. Late reports place the capacity of the mill at 370 tons per day, the amount of water used being only 30 tons for each 100 tons of ore crushed.

The Giesecke mill is shorter than the standard size Rand tube mill. Of its entire length of 24 feet, one-quarter is of greater diameter than the rest of the cylinder. The larger end contains the larger steel balls, the portion of smaller diameter the smaller balls. The balls are in eight sizes, from 4-inch to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch diameter. The two sections are divided by a screen or sizing plate. The steel balls weigh 23 tons in all, the liners 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons, and the cylinder 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons. The charge is 50 tons, and the motive power required about 250 horse-power.

Amongst other claims advanced for the new mill, it is asserted that only a minimum of supervision is required and that lubrication is entirely automatic.

The Rand is making rapid strides in the metallurgy of gold. The existence of an official committee, whose duty it is to examine and test each notable invention or process, lends weight to any departures from fixed practice.

THE WESTERN STRIKE.

The strike of the coal miners in the Crow's Nest and western Alberta districts is causing very serious loss. According to the estimate of Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, the miners and employers are dropping about \$20,000 per day. As the strike began on April 1st, the grand total that the strikers will be out on August 1st reaches the figure of \$2,000,000.

There seems to be no sufficient reason why work should not have continued whilst the dispute was being settled in a rational manner. If the Industrial Disputes Act means anything, if it is to be anything but an added source of expense and strife, it surely should be effective in promoting the continuance of work and the peaceful arbitration of differences.

What is really required is the abolition of the hazardous choice of inexperienced and inapt chairmen. This lesson was well illustrated by the satisfactory settlement of the Dominion Coal strike. In this case, Dr. Adam Shortt, an official of eminently sane and judicial mind, brought operators and employees together with a minimum of noise and friction. It is a grand pity that some similarly diplomatic person could not have been made chairman for the committee that reported upon the Western strike. Incidentally, all the futile exchange of amenities in the public press would then have been avoided.

It is clearly evident that Dr. Gordon, as chairman, was out of his depth. The wording of his report was indiscreet and painfully florid. Neither in experience nor in temperament is a man of his type suited to the task of dealing with problems in real life.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF CANADIAN MINERALS.

During 43 years, covering the period 1868-1910, inclusive, according to the statistics collected in the Canada Year Book, a Government publication, Canada has exported mineral produce valued at \$530,920,916. The great bulk of this has gone to the United States, that country taking no less than \$475,292,324, or, roughly, 90 per cent. of the total. Great Britain is a bad second, with only \$29,838,991 to her credit. The remainder, \$25,789,601, was distributed in small amounts to many other countries. Thus, whilst we have shipped nine-tenths of our mineral exports to the United States, we have sent only 5.5 per cent. to Great Britain.

In the export returns for the year 1910, the relative position of Great Britain shows a slight improvement over the general average. Of our mineral exports she took about 9.5 per cent., whilst the United States took approximately 83.5 per cent.

Whatever errors there may be in these figures, and it is undeniable that our official statistics are far from correct, they are relatively accurate. In the aggregate, they probably do not wander from the truth by more than 10 or 15 per cent. A closer analysis of the distribution of exports is unnecessary. The comparison between our two chief customers is sufficient. And the facts must be faced, no matter what our feelings as private citizens may be.

There is room for speculation as to the probable effects of complete free trade in mineral commodities with Great Britain or the United States, or with both. There is no doubt about our present position.

A GENEROUS COMPANY.

More than passing notice is due the T. Eaton Company for the exemplary despatch with which a carload of provisions and clothing was sent to Porcupine. News of the fire reached Toronto on Tuesday evening, July 11th. On Wednesday a carload of 20,000 pounds