

### EDITORIAL NOTES

From figures compiled by the *Labor Gazette*, it has been shown that, with the exception of the professional classes, the wage-earners engaged in the mining industry in Canada receive higher average annual wages than any other class of workers. While the professional classes average \$678.88, the miner averages \$513.77.

Mr. A. P. Low is the new Deputy Director of the Department of Mines. Dr. Haanel is to retain his present position. Mr. John Marshall, formerly accountant of the Geological Survey, is to be account of the new department. The Deputy Director will still perform the functions pertaining to the office of Director of the Geological Survey.

A startling statement is made by a writer in a recent number of the *United Mine Workers' Journal*. He claims that, during the labor trouble in Colorado, a well-known detective bureau employed men to work their way into the labor organizations for the purpose of securing early information as to the plans of the unions. These spies, it is alleged, sent to headquarters exhaustive reports of the proceedings of the miners' meetings. In this way a great many of the strikers' plans were rendered abortive. It is sincerely to be hoped that employers of labor in Canada will never stoop to such degrading measures.

The Klondike River was free of ice early in May. Placer working and dredging have already been commenced in the Yukon. While this northern region has been favored with a remarkably early disappearance of ice and snow, Middle and Eastern Canada have suffered from an abnormally late and malignant spring. Adverse weather conditions have prevented and retarded prospecting and general development. On the Nova Scotia coast, late in May, pack ice from the north blocked North Sydney Harbor and caused a short though very vexatious delay in coal shipments. Already the fuel shipments from Nova Scotia to St. Lawrence ports are far below the figure attained at corresponding dates of last summer.

In this number of THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL will be found an article on the Boston-Richardson Gold Mine. This Nova Scotian mine is working profitably a very low grade gold ore. It affords a very striking example of the benefits of the application of common sense and modern methods of mining and ore reduction and concentration. In these respects it stands out prominently against the dark background of failure, incompetency, mismanagement and ill-fortune that so characterizes the gold industry in Nova Scotia. It is encouraging, however, to notice that in several districts the same methods are producing the same cheering results. Nova Scotia's gold mines need and must have competent, careful management.

Authorities appear to agree in the view that not only will the present high price of copper be maintained, but that there is every likelihood of a marked advance within the next six months. This belief is based on several apparently sound reasons, of which may be mentioned the recent falling off in output, the restlessness of labor in many of the large copper mining centres of the United States, Canada and Mexico; the relatively limited available supply of the metal for immediate delivery, and the increased demand from Europe. The *London Financial News*, reviewing the copper situation, points out that whereas sixteen years ago the world's visible supply represented 25 per cent. of the yearly production, at the end of 1906 it was only 2 1-2 per cent.; and, allowing for the natural increase in the world's output for this year, in the month of April, barely 2 per cent., or just sufficient for a week's supply.

The Dominion Government has announced that it will shortly publish a report upon the mining industries of Canada. This is most commendable. If suitable appropriations are made and capable men engaged, the report should be a very valuable work of reference. The Dominion Geological Survey and the Mines Department have done a great deal towards diffusing information about Canada's mineral wealth. So also have the Mines Departments of Ontario, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Quebec. But although a large amount of valuable information has been published from time to time, it is so scattered as to be of very little practical use. It is also true that only the fringe of Canada's possibilities has been touched.

To collect, redact and condense all available published information touching the mining industry of Canada would be a heavy task in itself. If it is intended to bring this up to date, and to do more than merely indicate the country's undeveloped resources, then there will be required the continuous services of a large staff of experienced specialists, over a long period of time.

We are informed by Mr. H. Carnegie Williams that his company, the Copper Mining & Smelting Company of Ontario, has ordered and is soon to install one trial unit of the Elmore Vacuum process ore concentrator at their Bruce Mines plant. One unit has a capacity of 40 tons per day. As the company's mill requires 400 tons per day, a considerable installation will be required if the trial unit proves satisfactory. The company's consulting engineers, Messrs. Pellew-Harvey & Fell, of London, England, inspected Elmore installations in Cornwall, and reported very favorably upon them. Waste dumps, containing from 0.65 to 0.76 per cent. of copper, associated with other minerals, are being treated. An actual recovery of 90 per cent. of this copper is reported. As the Bruce Mines ore is a clean chalcopyrite, and as the old waste heaps, amounting to 120,000 tons, carry 1.15 per cent. copper, the Elmore