

# THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXIV.

TORONTO, May 1, 1913.

No. 9

## The Canadian Mining Journal COMMISSIONER PRICE'S REPORT

With which is incorporated the

"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada.

Published fortnightly by the

**MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED**

**Head Office** - Room 36, Canadian Birkbeck Building, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.

**Branch Office** - - - - - 34B Board of Trade Building

**London Office** - - - - - Walter R. Skinner, 11-12 Clement's Lane London, E.C.

**U. S. A. Office** - Ward & Smith, 931 Tribune Building, New York

**Editor**

J. C. MURRAY. B.A., B.Sc.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

### CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd 1879."

### CONTENTS.

	Page
Editorials . . . . .	261
Commissioner Price's Report . . . . .	261
Metal Mine Accidents in the United States . . . . .	262
Temiskaming Annual Report . . . . .	263
Concerning the Bartlett . . . . .	263
Editorial Notes . . . . .	263
Correspondence . . . . .	264
The Gold of the Klondike, by J. B. Tyrrell . . . . .	264
San Francisco Mill, Mexico, by J. P. Holcombe . . . . .	271
U. S. Mine Accidents . . . . .	273
Motor for Stamp Mill Drive . . . . .	274
Surf Inlet Gold Mines . . . . .	275
The Pulmotor in Mine Rescue Work, by H. E. Bertling . . . . .	276
Extracts from Report of S. P. on 8-hour Day . . . . .	278
Principles of Mine Valuation, by James R. Finlay . . . . .	283
Personal and General . . . . .	284
Special Correspondence, etc. . . . .	285

The results of the informal enquiry conducted by Mr. Samuel Price, Mine Commissioner for Ontario, have been embodied in a report to the Honourable W. H. Hearst, Minister of Lands, Forests, and Mines. Taken in its entirety, despite the fact that there is much internal evidence of Mr. Price's unfamiliarity with the practical aspects of mining, the report can be described as painstaking and, in many respects, accurate. We are convinced, however, that those in authority intended from the first to pass the act limiting the time of underground labour to eight hours per day.

Mr. Price states at the outset that his investigation for the most part took the form of an informal enquiry, although every opportunity was given to employers, managers, and workmen to voice their sentiments individually and collectively. In his endeavour "to ascertain and understand the nature of underground employment in the mines and the conditions under which men work," the Commissioner communicated with mine managers throughout the Province, held public meetings in various mining centres, caused secret ballots to be taken amongst the men, and corresponded extensively with officials in other countries. He claims, in effect, to have given equal opportunities to both mine owners and employees. Whether he could or could not do this is a question that we shall touch upon very briefly. As there are about 4,000 men employed underground in the Province, and as each presumably has a vote, it is frankly to be doubted whether a Government official could handle the situation without at least a tincture of unconscious bias. The Government has far too much at stake to take unnecessary chances. Far be it from us to accuse the Ontario Government of deliberate unfairness; yet we cannot but perceive the unwisdom of the method chosen.

In discussing the attitude of the men, the Commissioner said that nearly all are in favour of an eight-hour day. Out of a total ballot of 344, only 12 voted adversely to the proposed limitation of hours. "In nearly all the mines where the ballot was taken, I am satisfied," says Mr. Price, "that the men as a rule are well treated *and not at all dissatisfied in general* with the way they are used by their employers." The italics are our own. The clause italicized is most significant. Could a similar statement be made concerning any other industrial occupation? And why, in the name of reason, should the mining industry be selected by a paternal Government when there are numberless real abuses crying for attention in other industries?