

practice. Nor is it upon such occasions only that geology comes to the aid of industry. It has happened more than once that a geologist, intent only upon observing and correlating the rock formations of the district under his examination, and paying little or no regard to economic minerals or their indications, has produced a report and map which later have served as an invaluable guide to prospectors in the same field, upon valuable minerals being discovered therein.

"Knowledge," says Dr. Johnson, "is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it." The reports of the Bureau, containing, as they do, a fairly complete record of the Province's mineral industry since they began to be published, as well as a large amount of information concerning the geology and mineral resources of the Province, are naturally in constant demand by those who are interested in particular minerals, deposits, or districts, in the possibilities and actual resources of the Province or any part of it, in the origin and progress of any branch of the mining industry, or in any other of the thousand and one features with which the reports must necessarily deal. To know where such information can be obtained when wanted is the really important thing, for no one memory can be trusted to contain and reproduce correctly such a mass of detail.

The General Index submitted herewith covers the Report of the Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Ontario, published in 1890, the first sixteen annual Reports of the Bureau of Mines, beginning with 1891 and ending with 1907, and several bulletins on special topics published by the Bureau at various times. The Report of the Royal Commission, though published before the Bureau of Mines was established, naturally claims a place in the Index, since it comprehends most of the information of a similar character available at the time it was printed, as well as much valuable historical data. It was upon the recommendation of the Commission that the Bureau was created.

From the first up to and including the Seventh of the Bureau's reports, namely, from 1891 to 1897, the volumes bear on the title page the year to which the Report particularly applies, and for which the statistics of output, etc., are given. A change was made in 1898 which caused the reports to bear the year in which they were actually printed. The Report for 1897 has "1898" on the title-page, but "1897" on the cover of the cloth-bound copies. The next, or Eighth Report, being for the year 1898, is marked "1889" both on title-page and cover, and this practice has been followed since that time. The change has led to some confusion in referring to the reports, and in citing them it is better to do so by the number of the volume than by the year. Thus the Report lying on the cover the date "1896" is the Sixth Report, but the volume with the date "1904" is the Thirteenth, not the Fourteenth. Each volume is provided with an Index as well as a Table of Contents. In this way the possessor of a set of the Bureau's Reports is able, by searching, to ascertain what of interest or value they contain on any given mineral, locality, or topic. Such information may be fragmentary and incomplete, or it may be full and definite, exactly what the inquirer is looking for; or it may give some clue or hint by means of which further and more complete data may be obtained from other sources. But the sixteen indexes to the sixteen Reports necessitate sixteen separate searches in order to locate everything that may be in all the Reports on any given subject, and time is money in this busy age. All the references to the subject in the whole sixteen volumes are now brought together in the General Index, and in one search instead of sixteen the inquirer can complete his quest.

Nor are convenience and the saving of time the only advantages which the General Index possesses over the indexes to the individual volumes. The separate indexes are not the work of one hand, nor are they compiled on a common plan. Hence they differ in perspective and detail, and to some extent are of unequal value. To be able to make a good index of a volume dealing in technical terms and with special branches of knowledge, presumes an extensive and accurate acquaintance, both with the