

begin the erection of Canadian smelters. These conditions will help to bring about important changes in Cobalt itself. That the camp is a rich one is unquestionable. But not until recently has it been so obviously necessary to adopt economical methods. Thus the depression of stocks and the scarcity of money will undoubtedly prove blessings. Cobalt put upon her mettle will do better than Cobalt hysterical.

It is not improbable that our attacks upon dishonest financial methods may, indirectly, do harm to Cobalt in general. We therefore wish to indicate plainly that of Cobalt's present worth and future success we entertain only the most favorable opinion.

A NIGHTMARE.

The *Mining and Scientific Press* of San Francisco in its issue of November 16th, prints a letter entitled "The Wild Cats of Ontario." It is dated from New York and is signed "D.A."

The letter suggests that THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL should expose what "D. A." is pleased to call "the Ontario conspiracy." "This," the writer explains, "is a gigantic conspiracy among the people of Northern Ontario to spread, and pretend to believe, the false reports emanating from irresponsible prospectors and fortune hunters."

The writer continues in this strain. Like Tomlinson, he repeats several things that he has been told, all of them extremely damaging to Cobalt and Ontario.

The specific statements concerning the Silver Queen, O'Brien, McKinley-Darragh and La Rose are untrue. They are based upon the cheap stories that cheaper male gossips circulate in every mining camp. Mostly these stories are created and repeated to give a fictitious importance to the teller. Neither "D. A." nor any other foolish person of his kind is in a position to know the facts about the mines mentioned.

If the "gigantic Ontario conspiracy" needs refutation at all it can be met by the one fact that THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL has received hundreds of letters from the engineers, miners, prospectors and mine owners of Northern Ontario, offering all assistance in the work of extirpating frauds and fakirs.

We doubt, however, if any person who has visited Northern Ontario could be induced to take "D. A." seriously.

It is the fear that this totally unwarranted letter may damage Cobalt in the minds of American readers that leads us to notice it.

There is no need of descending to the methods of wild cats in dealing with them. But "D. A." is quite as untruthful as the worst of these felines.

Repeating what we have said on another page, a sufficient answer to all such calumny has been made by the Ontario Government. The Government has set its face

definitely and resolutely against mining frauds. In this it has also set an example that "D. A.'s" own country could not do better than follow.

THE CONSOLIDATED MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY.

The payment of a November dividend by the Consolidated is a pleasant offset to other and discouraging reports from British Columbia. The company has an issued share capital of \$5,355,200, divided into 53,552 shares of \$100 each. This last quarterly dividend amounted to \$133,880. This is the seventh dividend disbursement at the rate of ten per cent. per annum.

The Consolidated is an example of the benefits of selective amalgamation. Under its control are the War Eagle and Centre Star groups of mines in the Rossland district; the Eureka group at Sandon; the St. Eugene at Moyie; and the Snowshoe group at Phoenix. The Trail smelter is also the company's property.

There are undeniable advantages in consolidation. The fortunes of a company, whose interests are not confined to one district are less susceptible to ordinary vicissitudes. The failure of one mine does not necessarily imperil their whole enterprise.

On the other hand, there is a needless duplication of work in mining districts where many mines are operated by single individuals or companies. In Germany this has been recognized. By a loose, but efficient, association of interests the owners of coal and iron mines, the blast furnace companies and the steel corporations work together. Orders for iron and steel are distributed and allocated by the central offices of syndicates. All matters pertaining to transportation are dealt with by specially trained experts. In fact the individual producers of ore, coke, pig iron or steel are relieved of much of the incidental troubles that so militate against similar operators in Canada. The German producer is assured of his raw material at a fixed rate and of a sale for his product.

To a certain extent like benefits accrue to the members of any well organized consolidation.

This is not a panegyric on trusts. It is merely an amplification of the old saw, that in union there is strength.

NOVA SCOTIA AND THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

Nova Scotia's exhibit of gold ores has won highest distinction at Jamestown. This is gratifying. Upper Canadians are ignorant to an amazing degree of the mineral wealth of Nova Scotia. In Boston and New York her resources are better known. But throughout both Canada and the United States Nova Scotia needs advertising.

We are informed that the creditable exhibition made at Jamestown was organized largely by a Virginian lady, who is interested in a Nova Scotian mine. Part