

canneries have been taken over, and there are several others which are expected to come into the combination in the near future. The company has an issued capital of about \$2,740,000, with \$1,000,000 cash in the bank, and there is besides about \$1,260,000 worth of unissued stock. As the canneries have been managed in the past they have only been in actual operation for about six weeks each year, lying idle for the other part of the year. The company, however, intend to work on an altogether different basis, and, they will pack not only all kinds of salmon, but will give the fishermen much more continuous work by catching halibut and cod and salting dog salmon for the Japan market. Many of the canneries on the Fraser river are to be dismantled and their lumber and machinery removed to places convenient to where the fish are caught. Their work will be facilitated by traps placed on the west coast of Vancouver Island, a system the granting of which is looked upon as certain. Not only this, but many by-products of the fishing industry, which have in the past been looked upon as waste material owing to lack of the necessary capital for utilizing them, will be worked up into a profitable manufacture. Chief among these products will be oil, glue and fertilizers.

Among the chief advantages looked for as a result of a centralized system, such as the formation of this company brings about, is a better marketing of the product. Not only is its quality expected to improve, a desideratum of paramount importance in canned goods, but old markets will be more fully supplied and new ones exploited as quickly as possible. Australia with its gold fields would doubtlessly afford a large and profitable outlet if the quality of the article and its continuous supply could be depended upon. The directors elected by the company for the first year are as follows: Alexander Ewen, of New Westminster; R. J. Ker, of Victoria; W. Murray, Campbell Sweeny, G. I. Wilson, E. E. Evans, and Henry Doyle, of Vancouver; Aemilius Jarvis, of Toronto, and Kenneth MacLaren, of Jersey City.

QUEBEC MINERALS.

A rather disappointing report upon the mineral production of Quebec is made by the Inspector of Mines for that province, Mr. J. Obalski, M.E. Disappointing, that is, in the output, for with the exception of asbestos, which is at present the most prominent item in the mineral industry of the province, and one or two other items, the production is meagre in the extreme when we consider what has been predicated of its undeveloped wealth. The number of men who were employed last year in various mining operations was 2,792, and the wages paid them amounted to \$865,101. The value of different minerals raised was \$1,727,731. The principal of these were:

Asbestos and asbestic	\$1,284,429
Granite	146,000
Copper ore	126,500
Mica and mica product	39,600
Bog iron ore	28,978
Cement	28,000
Chrome iron	16,744
Ochre calcined	14,595
Slate	12,252

Other articles to the value of \$30,633 were silver and lead ore, phosphate, graphite, raw and prepared; sulphate of baryta, flag-stones, magnetic iron ore, gold and felspar. It will be seen from this list that asbestos constitutes three-fourths of the whole, and that only one-tenth consists of metals. Phosphate shows a much reduced production, and gold a very trifling one when we remember what we were once told about the possibilities of that metal in Beauce and thereabout. As to petroleum, the workings for which have been in the Gaspé district, it is unhappily to be noted that the Canada Petroleum Company, which had spent much money in prospecting and boring, and in erecting a refinery, etc., has gone into liquidation. The wells which have been sunk have, in Mr. Obalski's words, not much more than given reason for "supposing the presence of oil in greater abundance in some part of this district," which is very indefinite and not at all encouraging.

THE TOBACCO FIGHT.

Canadian manufacturers of tobacco complain that the tobacco combine of the United States, which has a Dominion charter, not content with waging war for the control of the British markets, is using unfair methods of competition to drive Canadian companies out of business. The combine recently sent out a circular to retail dealers in this country specifying, among other clauses, that wholesale dealers must not sell to other than retail dealers except by permission of the trust, must sell retail at prices fixed thereby, and offering a bonus or rebate of 5c. per pound to retailers promising to handle no manufactured tobacco made from Canadian leaf or from a combination thereof with foreign leaf, except it be made by the trust. Besides this, the combine declines to sell its tobaccos or cigarettes to any wholesale house which handles a box of Canadian leaf tobacco made by any other firm or company. Where the shoe pinches is in the fact that the trust produces certain brands of cigarettes and tobaccos which owing partly to intrinsic merit, partly to fulsome advertising, are in keen demand. The dealers, therefore, in order to retain the trade of their clientele are bound to sell them, but, in order to do this, they have to refrain from ordering the goods of other manufacturers. Canadian manufacturers have presented their grievances to the Dominion Government, and we understand that a commission will be appointed to investigate in the same manner that was done recently in the case of the alleged paper combine.

AN EXPLORATORY CRUISE.

The project of the Canadian navigator, Capt. Bernier, to equip an expedition, and spend four years in exploring the lands and waters at the extreme north of this continent, is one which should command the interest of Canadians. The Captain's ideas embrace more than merely the discovery of the North Pole—though this feat, if he shall achieve it, will redound greatly to the glory of Canada. He will have an eye to the great mineral riches believed to exist north and west of Hudson's Bay, and guided by the buoys already placed in Arctic waters by the United States authorities, proposes to prove some of the theories of wind and water currents which have commended themselves to scientific men. The plans of Capt. Bernier have been highly approved by such men as Sir Clement Markham, president of the Royal Society of Great Britain, the late Prof. E. M. Dawson and his successor, Dr. Bell, Mr. Tyrrell, the Canadian explorer, the Canadian Institute, and the Land Surveyors' Association of Ontario have all expressed the warmest interest and approval, while the governments of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces promise assistance in various directions, direct or indirect. The least that will be required to fit out the Polar expedition, we are told, is \$120,000. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has promised, it is said, that if Captain Bernier can raise \$60,000 the Government of Canada will give an equal sum. Already there is some \$30,000 subscribed for the purpose. An excellent opportunity is offered for some more of our rich and public-spirited men to contribute to so worthy a cause.

DEATH OF HUGO KRANZ.

The president of the Economical Fire Insurance Company, of Berlin, has the melancholy announcement to make of the death, on 1st June, of Mr. Hugo Kranz, long manager and at one time president of that company. Noticing the signs of his bodily weakness, the directors on the 19th of May granted him three months' leave of absence, in the hope that complete rest would restore his weakened frame. This, however, was not realized, as he had not since that date been able to leave his room. He passed quietly away on Sunday morning, at the age of 68. Mr. Kranz was emphatically a good citizen. During the 47 years he lived in Berlin, as merchant, councillor, treasurer, mayor, school trustee, member of Parliament, he displayed high purpose and great energy. No wonder, then, that he is universally mourned in the county of Waterloo. The Economical Mutual Insurance Company will miss him, too. He was one of its promoters, thirty