

larly. This is done in South Africa on a very large scale, and all over the world where responsible capitalists control operations. It is the one and only cure for the lamentable conditions that prevail in our stock exchanges. As a matter of fact, Canadian mining exchanges have become such hotbeds of unholy doings that special legislation is being seriously considered by the proper authorities. Legislation, however drastic, will be of no avail. The disease is deep-seated. The remedy lies in the hands of the mine owners and mine managers.

To become more specific, there are dozens of Porcupine promotions of which nothing is known beyond the eloquence of a prospectus. Think for a moment what a readjustment of share values there would be were the managers instructed to publish monthly statements covering the work done and the value of ore developed!

And there is absolutely no good reason why this should not be done. If an enterprise cannot bear the light of day who on earth wishes to put his money in it? To which it can be answered that the industry and the profession of mining are being made subservient to groups of speculators that they may profitably carry on a huge game of poker—with marked cards!

#### THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND THE MINES BRANCH DURING 1911.

Both Branches of the Department of Mines, Ottawa, did vigorous work during the past twelve months. In this number of the Canadian Mining Journal will be found specially written accounts of the labours of each.

The officers of the Survey covered much ground. The summer's record included a geological reconnaissance across the Rocky Mountains; a palaeontological study of Carboniferous rocks on the shores of Chignecto Bay, Nova Scotia; a close inspection of part of the Alaska-Yukon boundary; an investigation of the Tulameen (B.C.) diamonds; a detailed examination of the area surrounding and including the West Shining Tree district, Ontario; the mapping of the coal area situated where the Grand Trunk Pacific crosses the Rockies; a further examination of the gold-bearing series in Lunenburg and Queens counties, Nova Scotia; an investigation of deposits of clay and shale in various parts of Canada; a study of one hundred square miles in the vicinity of Nelson; the completion of a geological study of the Portland Canal district; the examination of typical mica, graphite, and apatite deposits in Quebec, and the investigation of the petroliferous and gas-bearing region south of Moncton, New Brunswick. In addition several parties were assigned special stratigraphical and topographical duties, and the divisions of Natural History and Anthropology continued their regular tasks.

The Survey moved during the year into more commodious quarters in the new Victoria Memorial Museum. The old quarters had long outlived their usefulness. It is now possible to exhibit to some advantage the collection of specimens that has been accumulating for years.

The protracted illness of the Director, Mr. R. W. Brock, interfered somewhat with the work. Nevertheless the season has been successful.

Sporadic attempts have been made to continue the publication of regular press bulletins. This duty should devolve upon a specially appointed officer. It is well to keep the public informed.

The Mines Branch, which, as we have mentioned before, is now settling down to its proper work, undertook several new investigations, besides continuing those commenced before 1911. Material was gathered during the year for monographs on the Sudbury nickel-copper deposits; and on the salt and gypsum industries; on Canadian feldspar and phosphate deposits. Most important of all, the Canadian market for certain mineral commodities was looked into thoroughly. The results of this last-mentioned mission will be of great commercial interest. We predict that this is but the beginning of a campaign that will lead to large industrial developments.

The testing of processes, especially methods of concentrating iron ore and of utilizing peat, was continued vigorously. Plans were made and a site secured in Ottawa for a large testing station where explosives will be tested, and all the phenomena connected with coal-mine explosions investigated. Here, also, the use of the rescue apparatus will be demonstrated. This establishment will be of great importance in bringing before the mine owner modern methods of preventing the loss of life in mines.

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The Geological Survey and the Mines Branch are institutions that deserve the support and encouragement of every citizen. They are, as they should be, as non-political as frail human nature can make them. Both are assisting in building up the nation. Both strive to educate the people; to help the prospector, the miner, and the investor; and to advertise abroad the resources of Canada. The usefulness of both is limited by totally insufficient appropriations of money. We look to the present Government to correct this needless evil.

#### EXIT HAWTHORNE.

Justice bids fair to overtake that most picturesque of mining promoters, Julian Hawthorne. The United States Post Office Department has been on his trail for some time. On the afternoon of January 5th Hawthorne; Josiah Quincy, ex-Mayor of Boston; Albert Freeman; John McKinnon; and Dr. William J. Morton were indicted in New York on the charge of misusing the mails in a scheme to defraud investors in certain mining enterprises.