

By those who had been and were concerned in the establishment of an iron and steel industry Mr. Sloan wished it to be understood that the Government was behind them to the full extent of its power having regard to the serious financial obligations of the country and to its responsibility as the representatives of the taxpayers and electors of the country. The Government was sincere in its determination to help those whose enterprise and confidence in the future of the Province had induced them to take up the task of launching the industry which, everybody was agreed, would mean the opening of a new, a broader and a more prosperous era in the commercial and industrial development of British Columbia.

The Whitewater Discovery.

"Possibly the most noteworthy of recent events bearing on this subject," recalled Mr. Sloan, "is the discovery of large deposits or what are described as limonite and hematite ores in the Whitewater River section of the Lillooet Mining Division. When information was received regarding the existence of these bodies of iron ore Wm. M. Brewer, one of our mining engineers, was instructed to proceed to the district to make an examination and submit a report thereon. This he did last summer. While Mr. Brewer was unable to make a full and complete inspection he was able to see and to satisfy himself of enough to demonstrate that the field merits the very closest examination in the public interest. Mr. Brewer places himself on record as estimating the 'actual ore' at 7,200,000 tons, the 'probable ore' at 15,000,000 tons, and the possible ore' at 50,000,000 tons. Assays of the ore show it to be of high commercial value.

Steps Taken.

"Recognizing the importance of such a deposit," said the Minister, "the Department of Mines immediately took steps to interest the Geological Survey of Canada. Through Charles Camsell, its western representative, the services were obtained of S. J. Schofield, who proceeded to the district to make a further report. His party, however, was too late to make any extensive investigation. In the meantime, through the instrumentality of the Department, a reconnaissance of possible route of transportation from the Whitewater District to the coast has started, having been partially completed last season. It will be continued this year.

Further Work Promised.

"This work," Mr. Sloan went on, "both in regard to the geology of the section, the extent and quality of the iron ore available, and as to the feasibility of arranging transportation facilities, will be proceeded with this year as soon as conditions permit. The assurance of the Geological Survey has been received that although hampered by a shortage of properly qualified geologists, every effort will be made to assign a party for exploration in this section during the Summer months.

"It is scarcely necessary," he said, "for me to emphasize the importance of such a deposit of accessible Hematite and Limonite ore to British Columbia. If all is as represented it means that the establishment of blast furnaces in this Province, is as practical as it has been found in any other industrial centre of the American continent. In short it simplifies the problem of the treatment of the Magnetite Ores of the Coast

and brings the establishment on a firm and lasting basis of an iron and steel industry within easy reach of those with capital looking for a sound investment that will assist at the same time in the opening up and the development of the country.

Progress Has Resulted From Government's Action.

"Broadly speaking," the Minister concluded, "we are, unquestionably, some distance further ahead towards the solution of the problem of the development of the iron ore resources of the Province. The Government has not lost sight of the importance of the question and is using every means possible to bring about the result so fervently desired. With our policy of obtaining more information regarding the deposits at our disposal, of bonuses, of assisting those undertaking experiments in treatment, and lastly of obtaining from the Legislature the power to prevent the tying up of such holdings for speculative purposes, we may expect action soon."

BOOK REVIEW.

TECHNICAL WRITING. By T. A. Rickard, Editor of "Mining and Scientific Press." First edition. John Wiley & Sons, New York and Chapman & Hall, London. 178 pages with index. Buckram and Boards. \$1.50 net.

Those who have read Mr. Rickard's previous work, "A Guide to Technical Writing," will need no introduction to his abilities to point out the frequent faults of technical writing, a subject which, as the editor of a technical publication, must be constantly before him. "This little book" states Mr. Rickard in his preface, "has grown from a set of five lectures delivered before the engineering classes of the University of California in 1916. It is a ticklish task to write on writing, because the effort provokes self-consciousness. All I hope to accomplish by means of these printed lectures is to cause members of my former profession to 'sit up and take notice.'" We believe Mr. Rickard can claim to be master of two professions.

As a writer, Mr. Rickard is well qualified to advise on style, having himself developed one of the most lucid and readable styles in contemporary technical literature. A mode of expression such as that employed by Mr. Rickard is not, however one that can be easily come by, and it will be admitted by those who have any experience of writing that what is apparently the happy and spontaneous expression of the moment is in reality the outcome of much reading, much experience, much labor, and a thorough knowledge of the subject written about. Those who have had occasion to look over the papers of students and immature writers will have noticed that half assimilated and incomplete knowledge leads to a turgidity that no amount of use of technical terms will help to clear, and, conversely, the speeches of eminent scientists, who thoroughly comprehend their subject, are remarkable for their simplicity of wording and the clearness with which the ideas they discuss are presented to the reader.

One of Mr. Rickard's happiest essays dealt with the romance of mining, and was doubtless much appreciated by the International Mining Convention before which it was delivered recently at Seattle, but this essay could not have been undertaken without wide knowledge, and revealed an acquaintance with litera-