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THE CHIEF GEOLOGIST OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Upon the recent filling of the directorship of the Geological Survey by the appointment of Mr. Low, there was created within that department the new position of Chief Geologist. This is an important step, in as much as it should facilitate the organization and correlation of field work, and it should, accordingly, go to strengthen the hands of the director.

It was fitting too, that the first appointee to this position should be Dr. Robert Bell, the senior member of the staff, who for the past five years has filled energetically the position of Acting Director.

THE COPPER SUPPLY.

In a recent number of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, Dr. James Douglas discusses the comparative quantities of pig iron and copper used during the last ten years. His careful statistical comparison shows that during that time one ton of copper has been consumed for every 83 tons of pig iron, and that this ratio was maintained very uniformly. In order therefore to meet the rapidly growing demands of the iron and steel industries a proportionately rapid increase in the production of copper is required. It is this demand which has given to the copper market its steady advance during recent years, an advance which Dr. Douglas' investigations would indicate to be a perfectly natural one, as there are no known copper reserves of great importance, the copper market is likely, accordingly, to continue active for some time.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC CHANGE IN MINING LAWS.

The session of the Quebec Legislature, which ended last month, closed without the introduction of the new mining law, which the Minister had in contemplation in the early part of the session. That this deferring of a new mines act is a wise measure, there can be little doubt. In the meantime the Hon. Mr. Jean Prevost, it is announced, will visit the principal mining districts of the province during the coming season, to make personal observation of the requirements of the licensees and prospectors under the existing act. It is understood that the Superintendent of Mines, Mr. J. Obalski, will shortly issue a leaflet, or pamphlet, upon the Department's construing of the present Act, in relation to the remote mineral districts which were discovered last year in Northern Quebec. The trip of Mr. Prevost to the new Chibogamoo country has been postponed from