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## The Canadian Mining Journal

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### CIRCULATION.

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### THE ASBESTOS MERGER.

The article on Amalgamated Asbestos that appeared in our issue of June 15 has aroused much comment. The Montreal newspapers, in conformity to that cheerful habit of most newspapers, have published either disconnected excerpts from the article, or have opened their columns to anonymous critics who make no possible attempt to meet the facts as presented by Mr. Harpell.

Here it may be wise to degress for a moment. In our May 1st issue we published an article outlining the scope and plans of the Amalgamated Asbestos Corporation. The material for this article was supplied by Mr. Fritz Cirkel. We accepted it without misgiving.

It is patent that if the Canadian Mining Journal is to fulfill its mission in Canada, it must publish nothing that tends to mislead or misrepresent. Our aim is, has been, and will ever be, to give the facts as we find them. Shortly after our May 1 issue appeared we received information indicating that Mr. Cirkel's data were incorrect. Immediately we took steps to get at the truth. This was set forth in Mr. Harpell's article. And that this article is correct in its details and conclusions we have daily more reason to believe. The newspaper criticisms, inasmuch as they avoid carefully all essentials, merely strengthen this impression.

These considerations lead us to another that is most vitally important. To our knowledge the promoters of the merger have based their prospectus, not upon the report of a disinterested mining engineer, but upon the statements and opinion of a man, Mr. Fritz Cirkel, who is an owner of asbestos properties himself and is interested financially in the Merger. This is contrary to the rules of decent business. It is particularly out of place in a \$25,000,000 flotation.

We do not know the precise conditions under which Mr. Cirkel is employed by the Mines Branch of the Federal Department of Mines. We believe that his contract permits him to undertake private work in addition to his official duties. But, whatever the arrangement, the position in which he has placed himself and the Department is most regrettable. In the first place, Mr. Cirkel, acting as a Government official, enjoys privileges that would by no means be his as a private individual. Secondly, his position as a Government technologist has given him, through his departmental publications, a standing that cannot be gained otherwise. Thirdly, for both these reasons very serious responsibilities have devolved upon Mr. Cirkel. It is incumbent upon him that he should, so far as possible, distinguish between his work as an employee of the public and his efforts as a private mining engineer