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OFFICIAL REPORTS.

The value of Government reports, more especially of reports having to do with mining, depends upon three qualities—timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy. Of these three virtues the first is not the least, and with it we have here to do. The Geological Survey of Canada, under the present Director, has issued its publications with most praiseworthy promptitude. The British Columbian and Nova Scotian Governments have been not unreasonably tardy in presenting to the public their statements of mining operations for 1906. Alberta's pamphlet came late upon the scene. Quebec's has just appeared. Ontario's is yet to come.

We can see no reason why this carelessness should be allowed. If, as is probably the case, the officials who are responsible for the appearance of the annual reports are overworked, if their time is so broken up as to prevent their giving consecutive weeks of attention to these important publications, then more help is required and must not be withheld.

In each and all of the Provinces mentioned mining is an industry of major importance. The expense of engaging competent men to improve and supervise the Departmental publications would be a mere drop in the bucket of annual expenditure. Neither lack of funds nor any other plea of false economy can hold as an excuse for the negligence that permits an annual report to be more than six months late.

Of all the Provinces Ontario has more reason to need prompt official mining information and least reason to be subjected to irritating and harmful delays. The Province is rich. Her mines are contributing large sums to her treasury. If more help is needed it is easily available; if more help is not needed then there is no other valid excuse.

Last spring, acting on the information of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, a geologist visited, inspected and reported upon Larder Lake. His report is not yet published. Its prompt publication would have obviated a vast deal of robbery and dishonesty and would have done actual good. Good its belated appearance will do yet. But, meanwhile, the district, quite irrespective of its natural wealth or poverty, has been made the hatching ground of criminally fraudulent schemes—schemes carried out, we regret to say, by Toronto brokers. This plundering of the public should have and could have been stopped by the timely publication of an honest report.

There is indeed no valid reason why Departmental reports should be even six months late, and, with business-like methods, they could be published within three or four months of the close of the calendar year.