

**Canadian Mining Review.**

OTTAWA.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00  
ADVERTISING RATES—15c. per line, (12 lines to 1 inch).OFFICE:  
UNION CHAMBERS, 14 Metcalfe Street.

*The CANADIAN MINING REVIEW is devoted to the opening up of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, and its publishers will be thankful for any encouragement they may receive at the hands of those who are interested in its speedy development.*

*Visitors from the mining districts as well as others interested in Canadian Mineral Lands are cordially invited to call at our office.*

*Mining news and reports of new discoveries of mineral deposits are solicited.*

*All matter for publication in the REVIEW should be received at the office not later than the 20th of the month.*

*Address all correspondence, &c., to the Publishers of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, Ottawa.*

Early in the present month an influential deputation, composed of representative men, waited on the Minister of the Interior to call his attention to the dissatisfaction that prevails among those who are interested in mining in Canada by reason of the past indifference of the Geological Survey to the collection of statistics and information connected with our mines and minerals, and urged upon him the importance and necessity of establishing a Bureau of Mines in connection with the Survey. A short account of what was said and done by the deputation is reported in another column, and it will be seen by reference to the list of names that the gentlemen who have taken up the subject are for the most part members of Parliament representing constituencies largely interested in mining, and all of them, twenty in number, are directly or indirectly interested in the development of Canada's mining industries. This is not the first time that the central government has been requested to establish a Bureau of Mines and Mineral Statistics, nor is it the first time that its attention has been called to the lack of some such means of collecting and classifying facts as to the sites and yield of our economic minerals. What is desirable is a complete series of statistics relating to the minerals of the Dominion, issued at regular intervals and corrected and enlarged as new information is obtained. It is worthy of note that at the meeting in Montreal in 1884 of the British Association, the President stated

that the collection of statistics was of very great importance, and he thought it would be a good thing if the Canadian Government would take the matter into their serious consideration and find a way to the establishment of a Bureau for the purpose.

MR. CLEMEN? LE NEVE FOSTER of Wales, at the meeting of the British Association above referred to, said that the system in vogue in England for the collection of mineral statistics was the result of a meeting of that Association, and he considered that their visit to Canada will not have been thrown away if the only outcome of it is to be the establishment of a system for the collection of statistics of the mining interests throughout the Dominion. He suggested that a similar system to that in England might be adopted by the Canadian Government, and stated that at the last meeting of the inspectors of mines, in England, a table of the mineral statistics of the British Colonies was compiled for the Home Office, and great difficulty was experienced in collecting any statistics of the Canadian minerals.

Surely it is right that a country with so much wealth of the mine such as Canada possesses should have a proper system for the collection of its mineral statistics, and it is fervently hoped that a suggestion on that head, coming with all the weight of the economic section of the British Association, shall not have been made in vain. Any suggestion supported by such authority should not be without its influence on our central government, and now that this need has received the confirmation of the representatives of our mining communities, and has been brought by them so forcibly to the notice of the Minister of the Interior, it is expected that through him it will receive the early attention of the Government, and that a Bureau of Mines and Mineral Statistics will shortly be announced as a recognized and permanent feature of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Some weeks ago there appeared in one of the leading Ontario morning papers the following paragraph, which should be of especial interest to the mining community:

**"WHY PROF. SELWYN IS DISLIKED."**

"Professor Selwyn, in charge of the Geological Museum, will leave on Tuesday next for England to make preliminary arrangements for Canada's geological exhibit. From what can be learned from reports made against Prof. Selwyn, it would appear they have been prompted by those who, having personal interests to serve, were thwarted by this officer. During the coming session of Parliament some startling revelations are likely to be made, in which it will be shown that several individuals occupying seats in the House of Commons have endeavoured to tempt Prof. Selwyn with bribes to report favorably on mineral properties they held, and which they wished to develop. Hence the attacks on the Professor."

This appears to have been inspired on good authority and has not been contradicted. It is a serious charge, insidiously and vindictively made, and the paragraph has probably escaped the notice of those who would be most interested in reading it.

In our last issue, referring to the cause of the strike at the Springhill coal mines, Nova Scotia, it was put down as owing to the unsafe condition of part of the working. We are informed that this was not the case, but that the trouble arose through the alleged harder quality of the coal in certain working places. These mines have hitherto been noted for the care and attention given to the safety of the workmen, a praiseworthy character, which has been frequently commented on by visitors, and notably on the occasion of a visit recently paid to them by an English Inspector of mines, who remarked that the occupation of mine inspectors would be dispensed with if all English mines were conducted with equal care.

Elsewhere we give a short account of what transpired at the meeting in Hull, called for the purpose of pressing the Gatineau Valley Railway Company to resume the work of construction and to push it vigorously with a view to the early completion of the road. If the President's promises and assurances are to be realized it will be necessary that the Quebec Government proceed at once to locate the land grant, on which, according to Mr. Mackintosh's statements, depends the consummation of his negotiations for the building of the road. The Gatineau Valley Railway would be an important factor in opening up and stimulating great mining industries in the county of Ottawa, and we earnestly hope that the Government will, so far as it lies within their power, remove every obstacle that serves as an excuse for the incompletion of the road.

The advisability of grinding Canadian phosphate rock and shipping it in a pulverized state has for some time occupied the attention of mine owners, and the experiment is about to be put to a practical test by the Portland, P.Q., Phosphate Mining and Milling Company. This company have erected and furnished a mill at the Basin du Lièvre, near Buckingham, and will grind and ship a large quantity of phosphate during the coming season. The mill is very conveniently situated for shipping as regards railway and water communication, and the water power for driving purposes is unlimited. The Portland, P.Q. M. & M. Co. have everything in their favour, and if this branch of our phosphate industry is practicable from a commercial point of view, and can be profitably carried on under any circumstances, their enterprise should and no doubt will be rewarded by successful results.

If this first attempt to establish a separate branch to our phosphate industry proves a success it will give an impetus to mining in the district and will be an incentive to others to erect mills for crushing and grinding phosphate rock. We are not informed as to what description of mill the Portland company has procured, but we have seen samples of the rock it has ground to an impalpable powder, from which we judge