

ers of common. And this again may be but preliminary to a general unloading of common after it will have become temporarily enhanced in value.

The labour cost per barrel of cement manufactured in Canada is low, lower indeed than in many countries where selling prices are more reasonable. The Canadian consumer pays as much as \$2.50 per barrel. It is interesting, but not consoling, for the Canadian consumer to know that he is paying for motor-cars, English elections, and other picturesque perquisites of the promoter.

* * * *

Sir Sandford Fleming's name is known and honoured throughout the British Empire. The tactless impudence of two of the Cement Company's officers in commenting publicly upon his allegations is inexcusable. Sir Sandford's word will be accepted by all until he is proved to be mistaken.

For the Dominion Government to ignore Sir Sandford's charges will be only less disastrous than for it to indulge in the not unfamiliar device of padding a special committee. The knife, and not the poultice, is necessary.

BATHS FOR MINERS.

The coal-miner suffers socially from the peculiar nature of his work. At the end of the shift he resembles a chimney-sweep. If circumstances force him to perform his ablutions in his narrow cottage, he carries dust and dirt into his home, vexing the soul of the housewife beyond measure. In settled districts he has to travel, begrimed and begriming, from the pit mouth to his house. All this is humiliating.

Dr. J. S. Haldane, in a recent number of *The Times* (London), writes with unusual saneness upon this subject. He expresses the belief that the question is not one of hygiene but of social decency and propriety. Dr. Haldane is a competent authority. It is his opinion that the desirability of providing wash-rooms for the coal-miner does not depend upon any point of health, but that it is entirely a matter of expediency. "The reasons that make changing and thorough washing at the end of a shift desirable are not directly connected with the health of miners, for there is nothing unhealthy about coal dust, and coal mining, with all its risks, is one of the most healthy and wholesome of occupations. The main reason is that a miner who returns home unwashed and in his pit clothes must necessarily bring into his house an amount of coal dust which is apt to soil everything and every person in the house. . . . Washing and changing at the pit-head would save endless discomfort, trouble, and dirt, and could be more quickly and conveniently done than at home. Why it has never become universal at collieries I am quite at a loss to understand."

In the course of his letter, Dr. Haldane speaks warmly of the manliness and intelligence of coal-miners as a class. His words apply equally in Canada. Here, as

elsewhere, the coal-miner is usually a fine specimen of self-reliant manhood. Loyal to a degree, he is, perhaps, apt to be led away by the demagogue. But a right appeal to his better instincts rarely fails of response. He is entitled to the best and fairest treatment. It is certain that consideration in small matters, and it is a comparatively small matter to supply soap and running water, would do much to create sympathetic understanding between employer and employee. Some, but by no means all, Canadian collieries make provision in respect of washing. All coal-mining companies should be obliged by custom, if not by legislation, to consider in this respect the comfort of the worker.

A WISE APPOINTMENT.

The announcement that the services of Mr. E. Jacobs have been retained by the B. C. Department of Mines will meet with the warm approval of all Canadian mining men. For many years Mr. Jacobs has devoted himself unremittingly to the cause of clean mining journalism. As editor of the *British Columbia Mining Review* he did notably good work. As secretary of the Western Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute he has spared no effort to rouse and maintain interest. In these directions Mr. Jacob's efforts have been of inestimable value to British Columbia.

But it is as a general journalist that Mr. Jacobs has done most for the Province. He is the staff correspondent of the *CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL*. Letters and articles from his pen appear also in several of the best mining publications on both sides of the Atlantic. In the newspapers of British Columbia, notably the *Nelson Daily News*, there appear frequent contributions from his pen. His annual review of mining in British Columbia is singularly complete, accurate, and timely. In short, upon Mr. Jacobs the public relies for truthful and regular information as to the progress of mining in the Canadian west.

Mr. Jacobs' distinguishing characteristics as a journalist are fearlessness, exactness, and capacity for work. He has the entire confidence of the mining fraternity in British Columbia and elsewhere. His appointment to an official position will aid rather than minimize his usefulness. The Government of British Columbia has acted wisely and well in giving recognition to a man whose chief object is the good of the industry.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

On another page will be found a statement of the proposed field work of the Geological Survey during the coming summer. Our readers will notice that the officers of the Survey are well distributed throughout all the mining provinces. The influence of economic considerations is particularly evident. For example, Dr. Andrew Lawson, of the University of California, who some years ago spent considerable time in co-