

a series of more or less parallel veins. But where two veins, or series of veins, dip in opposite directions, two incline shafts, the collars side by side, can most economically be sunk, thus avoiding long cross cuts and underground haulage.

Ventilation shafts, where ventilation is the only object, can be sunk cheaply and expeditiously with a large core drill.

Mr. Nicol's paper, though incomplete, is highly suggestive. There are many Canadian mining districts where timely consideration of the suitability of the incline shaft not only would have saved much initial expenditure, but would have reduced later working costs. There are many limiting conditions of topography and geological structure that may force a decision one way or the other. Yet very frequently a choice is open. Too often no thought at all is given to the matter.

UNGAVA.

Ungava is in the air. Several expeditions are being organized to search for the rumoured placers. The infectious rumour of gold has caught the imagination of the prospector. While, very fortunately, there can be no rush, yet several men of means have arranged to send parties off to the north to spy out the land.

Now by a curious twist of fate we ourselves have seen a good deal of Ungava, at least of the shore line that bounds Hudson Bay on the east. Our recollection of the country, refreshed by re-reading voluminous notes taken during two summers, is distinctly discouraging. The geology of the shore line from latitude to latitude is simple. Unmetamorphosed sedimentaries, limestones, and quartzites probably of Cambrian age, overlain by trap, form several long series of islands and, in places, constitute the mainland. For the most part, however, the mainland consists of granite in the form of low-rounded hills, nowhere attaining the dignity of mountains. The topography and the physiography of the country apparently preclude the possibility of placers forming. The rivers are not large. They are, in the main, exceedingly rapid. Nowhere, so far as we know, has nature provided the pre-essentials. Nowhere are conditions favourable for littoral or estuarian concentration. Little known as Ungava is, it is safe to say that all ascertained facts are against the existence of placer gold deposits.

A further drawback is the difficulty of travel unless one has experienced white guides and Eskimo servants. Overland travel is practicable only over certain routes. Water travel is dangerous, especially to persons who do not know the country and the inhabitants.

It is not pleasant to write in seeming disparagement of any part of Canada. Our justification is that

there is need of curing what appears to be a delusion. Ungava offers other chances to the hardy prospectors. Those who hope for placers may find an equivalent.

HOLLINGER AGAIN.

Our friend and contemporary, Mines and Minerals, than which no more edifying and careful periodical exists, has for once departed from the strict path of judicial impartiality. In its March issue appears a leading editorial on the Hollinger report. The moral inculcated by the editorial is sound. Unfortunately Mines and Minerals has gone astray in matters of fact.

Its arraignment of the report is based upon a paragraph quoted from the Cobalt Nugget. That paragraph runs thus: "Experience in similar rock formation in other parts of the world has shown that the veins continue to depth of 1,000 to 2,000 feet, so that there can be no doubt as to the conservatism of the estimated depth of the Hollinger veins, none of which have been estimated on a greater depth than 300 feet." Now this quotation is a loose paraphrase of a paragraph in Mr. Robbins' report, and does not represent either what he said or what he meant. Here is the text of the original: "It is probable that this vein will continue to carry values to depths several hundred feet below our present workings, and it is reasonably certain that for the purpose of this report an allowance of 300 feet of depth for the entire vein will not lead to any disappointments. Judged by past experiences and results obtained in other pre-Cambrian fields in other parts of the world, we may look for a continuance of values to depths of over a thousand or fifteen hundred feet, and the concensus of opinion among engineers who have visited our property is that the vein and values will persist to some such depths. Academically this is a reasonable hypothesis, commercially it is speculative and remains to be proven."

Nothing could well be more cautious and rigidly professional than the language of this last paragraph. Of course, Mines and Minerals intended no injustice. But, as we have pointed out, it got hold of the wrong "dope." This mild correction is offered all the more readily since we are conscious of having committed errors of the same kind in the dim past.

Meanwhile enough has been written of the Hollinger report. The subject is hereafter taboo.

COAL STRIKES.

Strikingly dramatic is the reappearance of Mr. Balfour as leader of the Unionists. Unlike Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Balfour came back at the urgent request of his successor. His task is to move the rejection of the minimum wage bill. Thus, to the embarrassments already