

The use of long, unbroken silvered plates for mill amalgamation, and of shaking plates for forced amalgamation, after tube mills. At Waihi the plates are installed in a separate building.

The adoption of regrinding appliances. The cost of tube milling African sands is now reduced to 5½d. per ton re-ground. It is doubtful, however, whether tube mills are more economical in running than stamps for increased output, as the consumption of power is high.

The provision of automatic weighing and sampling devices.

The introduction of the cyanide process for recovering gold from sands and slimes.

The use of improved mechanical roasting furnaces.

The provision of tailings wheels for elevating pulp. These are probably to be superseded by three-throw pumps of the type used for filter pressing.

The practical effect of these improvements may be measured by the fact that ores, formerly looked upon as impossible of commercial treatment, are now considered profitable. Thus ore containing 6 dwt. of gold per ton is now mined and milled at a good profit, and large plants have been erected to treat sand carrying less than 1½ dwt. of gold per ton and slime assaying only ½ dwt.

In concluding his thoughtful address, Mr. James makes a strong plea for the standardization of mine accounts. We heartily endorse this request. The need is universal.

### HIGH GRADING.

In our last issue we made brief reference to the prevalence of "high grading" in Cobalt.

Circumstances have since arisen that make strong comment necessary.

On May 12th a Cobalt jeweller was arrested in Toronto. He had in his possession ore to the value of about eight hundred dollars. When questioned by his captors the man informed them that graft of this sort was so universal in Cobalt that he felt obliged to secure a share. The answer is naive. Also it is significant.

The Mine Owners' Association employed the detectives that captured this particular thief. Apparently the Association is the only active deterrent influence.

But why should not the workmen take it upon themselves to aid in suppressing this systematic looting? Would it not be wiser and better for the miners to indulge in some honest efforts to remove the blot of "high grading"? If the labor leaders were as active in their opposition to wrongdoing of this sort as they

are in fomenting useless strife, there would be far fewer grievances and far less unnecessary friction.

A thief is defined in the dictionaries as one who deprives another of property secretly. Inadequate as this definition is, it serves the purpose well enough.

Judged by the moral standards nominally accepted in social life, many of our successful financiers, promoters and politicians are thieves. Occasionally a member of one of these classes oversteps the legal boundaries of right and wrong and is caught. Mostly, however, their operations are within the law, or cleverly evasive of the law.

In the learned professions there is no pronounced tendency to misappropriation. A doctor, an engineer or a lawyer loses caste if he is suspected of carelessness in handling the property of others. The commercial and industrial classes of Canada are as clean-handed as those of any other country in the world.

What are usually termed the laboring classes are not looked upon as displaying marked evidence of dishonest propensities. On the contrary, it is popularly believed that the honest toiler is the salt of the earth, and some varieties of modern socialism (much misused name!) inculcate the dogma that none but the laborer is honest at all.

Possibly in no calling is there such need of intelligence and resourcefulness as in mining. The good miner is, to our mind, one of the best types of producer. His work is not specialized to such an extent as obtains in modern manufacturing establishments. Neither is it beset with more dangers. But the dangers and the requirements are such as encourage a sense of personal responsibility. Initiative, adaptability and quickness of perception are developed in the efficient miner.

We repeat that, as a class, miners rank high in our social economy.

It is, therefore, much to be deplored that the dishonesty and greed of a number of Cobalt miners has brought dishonor upon an entire community, and particularly upon the workmen of that community.

And it should at once be recognized as an imperative duty on the part of every honest miner that he do his utmost to bring to justice each and every culprit. A pronouncement to this effect from the representatives of the labor organizations would be timely. The stigma should and must be removed and the workmen themselves can act most efficaciously.

### JOURNALISTIC AMENITIES.

The Sydney Record recently paid this "Journal" the compliment of reproducing from its correspondence columns some remarks on the question raised by the appointment of the Eight Hours Day Commission in Nova Scotia, and in doing so it prefaced the extract by stating that the Glace Bay cor-