

of the surface rights of whatever land in the location he deems necessary for the efficient working of the coal mining rights, at the rate of \$10 per acre.

The phenomenal drop in Foster (Cobalt) stock, for which no cause is publicly assigned, should be taken as a note of warning. The Foster Mine is, so far as we know, a well-managed mine. It has been and will be a producer. To give anything approaching an adequate return on its heavy capitalization, it must be developed conservatively, and with an eye to the future. An attempt to secure an immediate heavy output might not only diminish the possibilities of the mine, but might fatally handicap it. If this then is true of the Foster, if the stock of a developed mine, with a generally acknowledged claim to fair prospects, is so sensitive to apparently unfounded rumors, what may we expect of the dozens of Larder Lake and Cobalt flotations that have no reason for existence beyond a title from the Government, a man-hole in the ground, and a broker's fervent desire to get into the public's pocket!

Here we may pause to observe that several Toronto mining brokers and promoters are advertising lavishly in the press of the Western and Maritime Provinces. We wish to warn those who are desirous of risking their money in mining ventures to refrain absolutely from purchasing stock in Larder Lake or Cobalt concerns, until they have consulted either the Ontario Bureau of Mines or some competent and reputable mining engineer. This is a re-iteration of what has been said before. But so glaring, so patently unsound are the statements made in the "display" advertisements, that they provoke renewed attention. A contemporary mining periodical cites an instance which may well be taken to heart. The L. M. Sullivan Company, of Nevada, a lavish advertiser, received as much as \$140,000 in a single day from the sale of mining stocks which it was promoting, yet so tremendous were its expenses that the company failed and had to be reorganized. Advertising was the largest item in its expenditure.

Larder Lake has not yet a mine, much less a producing mine. What conceivable right can any firm of brokers, or any group of promoters, have to spend hundreds of dollars daily in advertising totally undeveloped possibilities? What law sanctions this misappropriation of monies received for an entirely different purpose? But why invoke the law! It is surely not vain to appeal to the common business sense of the long-suffering public!

AMERICAN MINING INSTITUTE

It is announced that arrangements have been consummated for holding a summer meeting of the American Mining Institute in Toronto. The date set is in July. More specific information will be forthcoming later. After a brief session in Toronto the members of the Institute will visit Cobalt, Copper Cliff and various other mining centres. The visit has been arranged largely by officials of the Ontario Bureau of Mines. The local Government is giving assistance, and it is expected that all mining men will heartily co-operate with the originators of this movement. The American Mining Institute counts among its members nearly every prominent mining engineer in the United States. Its membership also includes many Canadians. As honorary members, it has enrolled the leading scientists of Europe. Toronto should heartily welcome this distinguished body of visitors.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Aluminium may, doubtless will, displace copper to a limited extent for certain incidental purposes. But the supply of aluminium is still insignificant as compared with the output of copper. And even were the world's supply of aluminium increased until it equalled the amount of available copper, it would have very little effect upon the price of the latter metal. For electrical uses copper is incomparably superior to aluminium, and will always be in demand. However, there are a hundred uses to which aluminium could be profitably put were there a more bountiful supply.

CANADIAN GRAPHITE

By H. P. H. BRUMELL, M.E., Buckingham, Que.
(Toronto Meeting, 1907.)

Of the many useful minerals of common occurrence and wide distribution in Canada, probably less is known of graphite than any other, yet in a quiet and unostentatious way there is being developed an industry in this mineral that promises, in the near future, to be of no small importance to the Dominion. Already there are several companies busily at work with the expectation of producing considerable quantities during the present year. Unfortunately, with regard to the higher grade of graphite (the so-called flake or crystalline quality), the business becomes a milling rather than a mining one as the ore is usually a disseminated one, requiring expert knowledge and special machinery. In the latter respect

careful experiment has been required, and the present apparent success has only been won by large expenditure of both time and money.

The industry, which dates back to about 1860, has not until very recently been successful in this country, although with leaner ores it has been profitably conducted in the United States for many years, notably by the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company, the pioneers, on this continent, in the production of graphite from low percentage ores. They began operations as early as 1827.

Character of Graphite.—This mineral, which is, according to locality, termed graphite, plumbago or black-