

of time the mines themselves will be extensive enough to afford a safe breathing place for the men. Meanwhile, no chances need be taken.

### GEOLOGY AND MINING.

That there must be a closer line of demarcation drawn between the mining geologist, the common or garden variety of geologist, and the mining engineer becomes every day more apparent. Not long ago the *Canadian Mining Journal* expressed the belief that no person who does not possess the academic degree has a right to append the letters "M.E." to his name. He may, of course, have every right to use the words "mining engineer."

It appears to us that of all professional men, the trained geologist does not require a superfluous queue of letters behind his cognomen. No matter how many alphabetic feathers may be stuck in his tail, they impress only the unthinking.

But the assumption of the title and status of mining engineer by the geologist is not merely a question of good taste. Not seldom it brings grave discredit upon both professions.

Recently we were shown several reports upon mining properties, reports written by a geologist. All of these properties lie in the same region. Each of these reports contained a summary of the superficial geology of the region, a summary couched in hypertechanical terms. To the mining possibilities one or two paragraphs were devoted. No recommendation was made as to methods of prospecting or scale of equipment. The whole pith of the document was contained in one sentence that indicated the writer's belief that the veins were of deep-seated origin.

Now this kind of thing may be "geology," but it is not "mining geology," nor is it "mining." As the reports in question were accompanied neither by assay-maps, nor by any data as to cost of supplies, transportation, labour, etc., etc., they were absolutely useless as guides to the investor. Whatever vague references to mining they contained were of such a nature as to furnish ammunition for colouring a prospectus.

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It is far from our intention to cast stones at the geologist *per se*. In initiative and in practical service he is second to none. But he gets into deep water when he confounds his proper functions with those of the mining engineer. The mining engineer often needs and requests the aid of the geologist, both in the prospecting stage and the later development of the mine. We have yet to hear of a mining engineer usurping the field of the geologist.

With the mining geologist, who is a relatively modern product, the case is different. His advice is required when geological problems arise affecting the future of a working mine, or in identifying the geological features of territory near established mines. Whilst his work necessarily indicates the scale upon which development

may proceed, the actual plans for the future are determined by the engineer and modified by financial consideration.

In conclusion, it may be reiterated that the time has come for careful differentiation between the three branches of the profession. There will always be a certain amount of overlapping because the attainments and experience of every professional man vary. But in the undignified confusion of to-day there is little of reason and less of dignity.

### IMPOSING ON EUROPE.

On another page will be noticed a letter, signed "Germanicus." The writer of this letter is intimately acquainted with conditions of promotion and investment both in Canada and Europe. His opinions are entitled to respectful consideration.

The four maxims that our correspondent develops are as follows:

- " 1. Every promising Canadian venture, which does not require millions, can be financed in Canada or in the United States.
- " 2. Every larger enterprise demanding millions that can not be financed in the United States, because the promoters have not the required connections there, can be financed in London, provided it is sound.
- " 3. Every Canadian proposition that is being offered on the other side of the ocean by Americans is to be considered as suspicious.
- " 4. Every Canadian venture offered on the Continent, without a substantial reason for its being offered there, or without a most intimate and direct connection between Paris, Brussels, or Berlin, and the promoters, is more than suspicious."

Strong exception may possibly be taken to these sweeping generalizations. For instance, we know of isolated cases where the promoter could not get a hearing in Canada or the United States, despite the fact that his scheme was exceptionally sound. Often, also, the vendor of a meritorious property feels that he will get better treatment on the other side of the Atlantic.

These exceptions, however, help to prove the rule. To-day when all kinds of industrial schemes and every variety of mining ventures are being taken over to Great Britain and Europe, when the whole of Canada is being raked over to secure something to sell, when, in fact, Canada has become the chief hunting-ground of the adventurer, the warnings of our correspondent are hardly exaggerated. Where they may be unfair to the few, they embody cautions that should be carefully observed with all.

As a matter of fact, Berlin and Paris seem to be the dumping-ground of bad Canadian enterprises. The average business man of both these cities is unbelievably ignorant of Canada. He hears only good of this country. And he becomes the ready dupe of the unscrupulous.