

The above is not true, we are glad to add, of several mining properties in Larder Lake. There are honest companies whose mistakes are mistakes of ignorance. But not more than two or three have settled down to an honest attempt to develop a mine.

All available facts indicate that Larder Lake, if it survives, will become a low grade camp. What this means very few people appreciate. For one thing it implies the careful expenditure of large sums of money, first in exploring the ore bodies and then in erecting commensurately extensive plants. These steps will take at least three years. Not before many years more have elapsed can dividends be expected, if dividends there are to be. Over and above all the district needs experienced, careful mining engineers who will conserve the funds entrusted to them and expend them wisely and well. Larder Lake cannot support the horde of promoters who now are sucking her blood.

On our way to Larder we met seven miners, employees of the Larder Lake Proprietary Gold Fields, Limited. They were walking out from Larder without enough money to pay for their meals on the way. For three months, so they informed us, they had not received a dollar of pay. Also they complained of lack of decent food. Ordinarily complaints of this sort are not to be taken seriously. In this case, however, we feel justified in making public the facts of the case.

About one mile from Fitzpatrick's Bay we came upon thirty bags of flour, stacked on the ground, with an insufficient shelter of boards. Here they had lain for weeks exposed to the weather and to the attention of the beasts of the field. Half the bags were torn open. The flour was spoiled beyond use. When one remembers that transportation alone cost between four and six cents per pound to this point, it becomes impossible to furbish up an excuse for negligence such as this.

These things must stop. The country cannot afford to have money thrown away.

NEEDED—A DIRECTOR.

Upon the recent organization of the Mines Department at Ottawa, Dr. A. P. Low was appointed Deputy Minister. Under his care were placed the two divisions—the Geological Survey and the Mines Branch. Dr. Haanel is Director of the latter. Dr. Low is still, nominally, the Director of the former.

The burden of administrative work falls heavily upon the Deputy Minister. It is understood that, to allow him to do justice to his higher duties, a Director must soon be appointed to take over the actual management of the Geological Survey.

Upon the staff of the Survey are many faithful servants who have served their time and who should be retired with honor. No one of these is capable of pulling the Survey out of the rut into which it has fallen. Reorganization must be left to a young and vigorous

man. His appointment must not depend upon politics. His hands must be free to smite and to build.

A political appointee would be a misfortune.

Of all Federal appointments this is the one that most concerns mining men. The Government choice will be influenced largely (indeed it should be decided wholly) by the recommendations of such bodies as the Canadian Mining Institute. The man chosen must be not only a geologist—he must be a fearless, just and capable manager. There is restlessness and dissatisfaction among the younger members of the Survey staff. The new Director must deserve and win the respect of these men, and must also have the earnest co-operation of the older men.

Editorial Note.

New Brunswick will soon become a producer of iron ore. At Bathurst and at Lepreaux work is being done in substantial deposits of magnetite.

Urgent enquiries are being made of us as to possible sources of molybdenite. We shall be glad to hear from any of our readers who are in a position to ship this ore. A large market demand is developing.

Technical education is making headway in Nova Scotia. The system of schools is somewhat clumsy. But under its present energetic management there is no doubt that good results will follow. In no other Province of the Dominion is so much attention being paid to the education of workmen.

The *Canadian Engineer*, in a recent issue, referred to the Atikokan blast furnace as the "first blast furnace to produce pig iron from all-Canadian ore." This is quite incorrect. For years the Londonderry Iron & Mining Company's furnace at Londonderry, Nova Scotia, has been producing pig iron from domestic ores. Moreover, the Radnor charcoal furnace at Radnor, Quebec, has been doing the same. Also a considerable number of charcoal furnaces in Quebec have in the past used entirely Canadian ores. Our contemporary should avoid dangerous ground.

As we are going to press telegraphic advices have been received to the effect that the Granby smelter has been closed, throwing at least two thousand men out of employment. The low price of copper is said to be the immediate cause of this unfortunate event. A contributory cause has been the excessive wages paid to workmen. A rigid minimum scale of wages is a serious detriment to any industry. In hard times it should be possible, easily possible, to adjust wages to conditions. Unions, for their own good, should make this a recognized principle. The labor organizations very promptly demand a share of profits when trade is good. They should not expect employers to bear all the burden when depression comes.