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reported that an additional 1 per cent. is to be declared from land sales. As a matter of fact, this rumor, though lacking confirmation, might readily be believed, inasmuch as the earnings from land sales are largely in excess of the amount paid out to shareholders on the one per cent. dividend of the past. Should the extra one per cent. be declared, C.P.R. would be carrying a total dividend of 8 per cent., so that the higher prices which have been talked for the stock would be in every way justifiable. The rumor goes so far as to say that the extra dividend will be paid in the coming July.

## MINING ACCIDENTS IN ONTARIO.

### Death Rate in the Cobalt Camp is High and Mostly Due to Explosions.

The accompanying table summarizes the accidents which occurred in the mines of Ontario Province during 1907, these being the latest official figures available. It shows that in a total of 35 casualties, 22 men were killed, and 9 slightly and 10 seriously injured. The number killed was exactly double the number in 1906, and there can be no doubt that the rate of mortality from accident in our mines is excessive. Analyzing the table, it will be seen that of the fatal accidents, 16 were in mines of the Cobalt camp, 4 in those of the Sudbury nickel field, and 2 elsewhere. The number of men employed at Cobalt is returned as 2,038, and in the nickel mines as 1,824. It is, therefore, evident that the death rate in the former mines is much greater than in the latter—in fact, nearly 3.5 times as great.

It is difficult to account satisfactorily for so great a difference, says the Bureau of Mines Report. The class of labor employed in the Sudbury mines, consisting as it does, largely of men of foreign origin, cannot be regarded as superior to that at Cobalt, where the fame of the mines has drawn skilled miners from all parts of the world. Doubtless at the first opening of the Cobalt mines many men inexperienced in mining found employment, but these were drawn largely from the lumbering and farming classes of the community, wanting neither in intelligence nor dexterity.

#### Handling of Explosives.

Something is probably attributable to the character of the workings; for the most part those at Cobalt are small, requiring a few men at each and consequently not favorable to so thorough an organization, especially in the matter of

handling explosives, as the larger mines of the Sudbury field, where the ore is of lower grade, but occurs in much larger quantity.

It is not apparent what further aid can be rendered by legislation; the regulations embodied in the Mining Act, if carried out with strictness, probably being sufficient to eliminate nearly all causes of accident which can be foreseen or guarded against. A heavy responsibility rests upon managers, superintendents and foremen not only to insist upon the utmost possible care being taken by those under them, but also themselves to set an example of prudence and determination to avoid all risks or dangerous practices. Example is better than precept, and the remarks of Mr. E. T. Corkill, Inspector of Mines, who discusses the same matter in his report on the Mines of Ontario are commended to the thoughtful attention of all concerned with the management of mines. From a purely selfish point of view, a low death rate is a most desirable thing for a mine owner; but human life is precious, and apart from interested motives, nothing should be left undone to rob the business of mining of as much of its hazard as possible.

#### Mining Accidents Last Year.

As recently noted in these columns, the fatalities in the Cobalt district in 1908 numbered twenty-six.

Nine met death by premature explosions and explosions in missed holes, six by falling down shafts, two were struck by falling implements, two died of suffocation, one was caught by a hoist and one was killed by the explosion of a boiler.

Mr. T. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines for Ontario, commenting on these figures, says: "The chief classes of accidents have been due to explosions and to falling of men from buckets. When analyzed, it is found that the number of openings and the large quantity of shaft sinking that is done have a direct bearing upon the frequency of these accidents. Explosives of the gelignite class seem to be proving themselves dangerous in the severe weather in winter. Hoisting men in buckets is forbidden by the law, but miners dodge the ladderways and persist in taking the easier but more dangerous route to the surface, via the bucket. Frequent warnings proving unsuccessful in stopping such practices, prosecution of offenders has been begun. It is sincerely to be hoped that mine owners and miners will combine to eliminate all unnecessary risks from the business of mining, which at the best is more or less hazardous."

Messrs. McMahon, Helliwell & Company, of Macdougall Block, Calgary, have gone into the municipal bond business and will handle chiefly Western securities.

## Mining Accidents in Ontario, 1907

DATE	MINE OR WORKS	RESULT OF INJURY					NATURE OF INJURY	CAUSE OF ACCIDENT
		Slight	Serious	Fatal	Above Ground	Below Ground		
Jan. 7	Nova Scotia.			1	1		Killed instantly.	Reloading missed hole
" 15	Canadian Copper Co.		1	1	1		Killed instantly.	Caught between two cars
" 24	Kerr Lake mine			1	1		Foot crushed	Fall of rock
Feb. 14	Helen mine	1			1		Killed instantly.	Fall from car on ice
" 24	Canada Corundum Co.			1	1		Shoulder and back bruised.	Fall of rock
Mar. 8	Trethewey mine			1	1		Killed instantly.	Pick'g into explosive in bottom of hole
May 4	Can. Copper Co. (Crean Hill mine)			1	1		Killed instantly.	Fell from crusher floor to ground
" 21	Helen mine	1			1		Died in twelve hours.	Fell off ladder
" 23	Can. Copper Co. (Creighton mine)			1	1		Side bruised.	Clothing caught in shafting in rock house
" 29	Helen mine	1			1		Died same evening	Fell into ore chute
" 30	Big Ben Cobalt mine		1		1		Leg bruised	Fell into shaft
June 3	O'Brien mine			1	1		Badly bruised	Drilled into missed hole
" 24	Helen mine	1			1		Killed instantly.	Ore falling down chute
July 22	Hungerford mine			1	1		Died following day	Caught between fly wheel and connecting rod of compressor
Aug. 3	Temiskaming & Hudson Bay mine			1	1		Scalp wound	Fell from bucket
Sept. 9	Hanlan mine			1	1		Fracture of lower jaw and base of skull.	Overcome by gas and fell from bucket
" 9	Green-Meehan mine			1	1		Killed instantly.	Fell from bucket
" 17	Right-of-Way mine			1	1		Killed instantly.	Crushed between belt and roller of picking table
" 18	Can. Copper Co. (Crean Hill mine)			1	1		Killed instantly.	Explosion of powder in muck
" 19	Cobalt Central		1		1		Killed instantly.	Fall of car down shaft
Oct. 18	McKinley-Darragh mine			1	1		Eyes injured	Fall of ore
" 24	Victoria mine			1	1		Eyes injured	Ore falling down stope
Nov. 4	Helen mine	1			1		Scalp wound	Picking into explosive
" 4	O'Brien mine			1	1		Eye injured	Drilled into unexploded dynamite
" 8	Foster mine		1		1		Injury to right eye.	Picking into gelignite
" 16	Can. Copper Co. (Crean Hill mine)		1		1		Right arm broken	Picking into missed hole
" 28	Cobalt Lake mine			1	1		Eyes injured	Rock rolling down stope
" 28	Can. Copper Co. (Creighton mine)			1	1		Killed instantly.	Picking into piece of gelignite in muck
Dec. 9	Nipissing mine			1	1		Killed instantly.	Fell down shaft
" 17	Cobalt Lake mine			1	1		Killed instantly.	Caught by blast, returning before it exploded
" 17	Helen mine	1			1		Face injured by fine rock.	Struck piece of gelignite in muck
" 18	Cobalt Townsite mine			1	1		Injuries resulting in death.	Caught between two dump cars
" 20	Helen mine	1			1		Right arm fractured.	Rock falling from roof
" 26	Helen mine	1			1		Bruise	Struck piece of gelignite in muck
" 30	Beaver mine	1			1		Scalp wound.	
							Face cut.	
							Face cut.	
TOTAL CASUALTIES.		9	10	22	8	33		