

claim to be really representative of those interests, or to comprehensively cover the wide field of Canadian endeavour in these directions. *The Canadian Mining Journal* starts its career under favorable auspices. It has no special interests to serve, no prejudices to obstruct its usefulness, and it is untrammelled by considerations of financial disability in providing the necessary machinery by which to accomplish its purpose. Hence, in the understanding that the first function of a newspaper is to publish news, arrangements have been completed to secure reliable information at first-hand by the engagement of a staff of resident and travelling correspondents, the majority of whom are technically trained men, in whose independence of view and general trustworthiness we have every confidence. A number of the most eminent specialists in Canada have also generously consented to lend their services in advisory capacities and will, moreover, act as special contributors to these pages. In this connection, it may be mentioned in passing, that *The Canadian Mining Journal* hopes to create a new departure in Canadian technical journalism in respect to the remuneration offered contributors to its columns. Heretofore too much advantage has been taken of the good nature of our leading scientists, who have been asked to write for Canadian papers on the ground that they would thus display a meritorious public spirit. But modern conditions of struggle and competition, "something for nothing," is anomalous. It is neither fair to ask nor just to expect such concessions; and *The Mining Journal* hopes to substantiate its conviction that journalism in Canada can thrive without dependence on charity.

We have alluded to the recent revival of mining in Canada; but while this implies material progress of industry, the discovery of new and rich mineral territory and the extension of the productive area, we do not lose sight of the fact that this very improvement is responsible for "boom" conditions, which, as they are likely to react to the detriment of legitimate undertaking, are to be deplored. This exuberant state of affairs, however, is natural and inevitable; but it remains for the press—and in this respect *The Canadian Mining Journal* sees its duty very clearly—to unhesitatingly assume the task of safeguarding the public interests by fearlessly setting its face against "wild-cattling," and the machinations and misrepresentations of the fraudulent company promoter. British Columbia in general, and Rossland in particular, have scarcely yet recovered from the ill-effects of the bursting of the "boom" bubble of eight years or so ago. The Cobalt "boom" promises to assume still greater dimensions. Although the undoubted richness of the area warrants enthusiasm, it is safe to assume that a considerable proportion of the properties in which the public are being invited to invest—some of them in fact, described as Cobalt mines, are not even situated within the boundaries of the district, cannot pay to work, and their promoters have no false ideas on that

score. This, and the speculative inflation of values, are clouds on the horizon; and it rests largely with the technical and financial press to avert the threatening storm.

In making itself an organic part of Canada's industrial life, *The Journal* will strive to follow intimately the rising generation of technical men. There are few who realize the valuable work which our technical colleges are doing, in supplying year after year highly-trained engineers, chemists and metallurgists. There are fewer who appreciate the tremendous importance of keeping these young men within our own borders, of training them to meet our own industrial problems. Thus and only thus may Canada fulfil her destiny.

With this brief introduction we bespeak for *The Canadian Mining Journal* favor and support. We shall hope to establish between our readers and ourselves sentiments of common regard.

If by our efforts and their co-operation we are able to assist in the upbuilding of a great Canadian industry, that, we feel, will be a privilege indeed, an incentive to work and effort in the widest sense and a high goal at which to aim.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

An important change in the tariff, announced on the 11th inst., provides for a 99 per cent. drawback on bituminous coal, when imported by proprietors of smelting works and converted at the works into coke for the smelting of metals from ores. An ancient proverb tells us what the good dame remarked when she contributed her mite to the industrial resources of Scotland.

The necessarily superficial character of much of the geological and prospecting work done in Canada is now and then accentuated by the discovery of rich deposits in districts which have been explored and settled for many years.

The recently announced discovery of cassiterite in Lunenburg county, Nova Scotia, emphasizes the need and utility of constant and intelligent search for mineral deposits.

The field geologist is too hard-worked to indulge in detailed prospecting. But what he can do is to delimit the field for the prospector. Apparently this discovery of the valuable mineral cassiterite is due largely to the intelligent work of Mr. Faribault.

The demand for tin is constantly increasing. The supply is, on the other hand, practically stationary, and, as the reserves are diminishing, the metal is gradually rising in price.

In nearly all the tin-producing regions of the world cassiterite or tinstone, as it is commonly called, is the chief tin-bearing mineral.

Cassiterite is a black, brown or colorless mineral. In most instances the color is black or brownish. When black it shows a metallic lustre, when brown its lustre is resinous. Its streak, when rubbed on a rough unglazed porcelain surface, is never black, but varies from white to chocolate brown. It is hard, though very brittle and friable. Its brittleness easily gives a mistaken idea of