

carriage, but it would also make it possible for each manufacturer of pulp to secure and control his own supply of sulphur. Since Canada is becoming the largest supplier of pulp, the importance of her iron pyrites bodies is obvious.

## GOVERNMENT CORE DRILLING IN NOVA SCOTIA

Encouragement vouchsafed to miners by governments takes various forms. Not the least interesting is that of assisting the prospector in drilling his property. In this direction the Government of Nova Scotia has been particularly active.

The Nova Scotia Department of Mines operates seven prospecting drills of the following general description: Two diamond drills actuated by steam, making cores of two and one and one-tenth inches diameter respectively; two hand diamond drills yielding cores of the smaller diameter mentioned; two steam calyx drills making a six-inch core, and one smaller calyx drill.

Upon the filing of a small bond and of a certified cheque for \$250, any available drill is placed at the disposal of the applicant. The drill is then sent to the desired place and is operated under the direction of a person responsible to the Department. The location of the holes is left to the discretion of the applicant; all other matters are controlled by the Department employee.

All expenses, including shipment from and to the place of storing, are charged to the applicant, and, in no wise does the Department hold itself responsible for the manner in which drilling is performed. However, the applicant is given every reasonable consideration. He can make formal complaint at any time and can be sure of a hearing. Copies of the drilling log are filed at the Commissioner's office and similar copies are given to the applicant.

In the year ending September 31st, 1912, 77 holes were bored, at total footage of 10,826 feet. The cost per foot ranged from very low figures up to \$2.46 per foot. In a future issue we shall analyze these costs. Meanwhile it may be pointed out that this kind of assistance to the prospector and miner is practical and sane.

## THE ALBERTAN MINES BILL

In the course of the debate on the Mines Bill, now under discussion by the legislative body of Alberta, Mr. J. L. Cote, the member for Athabasca, made a strong plea for the establishment of a Provincial Bureau of Mines, with headquarters at Edmonton. Such a step, while commendable from every standpoint, may meet with objection on the ore score that the Dominion Government, having reserved the rights in the natural resources of the Province, the latter derives no direct

revenue from its mines. Mr. Cote affirms, however, that the Province is entitled to the royalties on all coal mined under "road allowances," and this, he stated, would represent an annual revenue of not less than \$100,000—a sum quite sufficient to maintain an efficient Provincial Bureau of Mines. Whether or not this contention is correct, it would still seem that any reasonable expenditure by the Province to establish and support such a department, would be thoroughly justified. In Alberta, agriculture is, of course, the principal industry, the total value of the production last year having been \$38,400,000. Mining, however, comes second. The value of the coal production alone in 1912 was approximately \$8,000,000. The production of cement represented at least \$1,000,000, while there was a considerable production of lime, of brick and other clay products. These industries are developing at a very rapid rate; while in the utilization of non-metallic substances, at present disregarded, there are immense possibilities. For information respecting its mineral resources the Province is at present dependent entirely on the reports of the Dominion Department of Mines. Such information is naturally limited. A Provincial Bureau could render a far more efficient service in this respect; and could, and undoubtedly would, do much to stimulate industry in new directions by indicating opportunities of which advantage has not yet been taken. It is meanwhile certain that the Western Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan will be ceded the control of their natural resources in the near future. The immediate establishment of an Albertan Bureau of Mines would merely anticipate, therefore, a need that sooner or later will have to be provided; but by organizing a department now it would be in a better position to meet the calls on it that changed conditions would create.

## THE LABOUR QUESTION IN PORCUPINE

The somewhat complicated circumstances surrounding the labour situation in Porcupine call for a few words of explanation.

Some time ago a Mine Managers' Association was formed in the Pearl Lake section of Porcupine. To this Association the Hollinger Gold Mines, Limited, did not belong. Among the first steps taken by the Association was the reduction of the wages of workmen. A Board of Conciliation was asked for and obtained. The Board was convened. The result of its deliberations was substantially to uphold the rates set by the managers. This decision was rejected by the men.

The Hollinger management, which was not in any way represented in the Association, and which, consequently, had no voice on the matter, quite unexpectedly became the storm centre. On November 15th, 1912, a number of men, not employees of the Hollinger, came on the property at change of shift with the object of forcing the Hollinger miners to strike. In this they