

THE PORCUPINE BOOM.

Those who have at heart the real good of mining in general and of Porcupine in particular, strongly deprecate the stupid flotations that are now being advertised in the newspapers. When leading business men take an active part in selling to the public a risk that is based upon the opinion of an unauthenticated "engineer," it is high time to call a halt.

The specific instance that has been brought to our attention is the advertisement of Jupiter Mines, Limited. This enterprise is a \$2,000,000 affair. 1,500,000 shares are in the treasury, 600,000 shares of treasury stock are offered at 50 cents. That is, the public is being asked for \$300,000, which sum, less brokerage and expenses, is to be applied in part payment for two claims on which four veins have been uncovered. The total price to be paid for the claims is \$250,000 in cash, along with 500,000 shares. Payments are distributed over a period of nine months.

The report of Mr. James H. Miller outlines the physical basis of the project. Mr. Miller is professionally unknown in Canada. His reports, whilst cheerful, might just as appropriately contain an epitome of the Book of Job. It conveys nothing to the reader beyond the figures of certain assay reports. The "research work" to which Mr. Miller refers has not been made public. We gravely doubt if it ever will. But all the "research work" and all the assays possible on a few outcrops cannot form sufficient ground for warm technical commendation. High assay results do and always will induce men to spend money. But the careful engineer confines himself to facts and not to glowing predictions. However, in justice to Mr. Miller, we must say that he conveys a radiantly optimistic impression in language so selected that he can, if necessary, take back-water in the future.

The claims in question are well situated. How much that implies no one knows. This very fact makes totally unnecessary such decorative features as Major J. A. Murray (whose firm, the Murray-Kay Co., is widely known), Mr. James H. Miller (who is not known), and the incandescent advertisement.

Porcupine does not need the blatant advertisement. Even the scintillating Mr. F. Augustus Heinze can be dispensed with.

The real work is being done by real engineers. Porcupine has struck her gait. Let her not be ridden by the frenzied financier.

REDUCTION OF LOW-GRADE ZINC ORES.

A year and a half ago, at the solicitation of British Columbian mining men, the Dominion Government authorized the expenditure of \$50,000 in investigating the commercial practicability of treating low grade zinc and lead-zinc ores. Seven months ago, the Hon. Mr. Templeman, Minister of Mines for Canada, speaking at Nelson, B.C., outlined the steps that had been

taken and touched on the plans that were formed for the future.

These generalities from the Minister are, so far as we know, the only intimation of progress that has been made public since the movement was begun. A year and a half has passed. No doubt progress has been made. But no news has come, not even of the experiments being conducted at McGill University. Kootenay mining men are anxiously awaiting tidings. They know how much hangs on the decision. Suspense is painful and costly.

The intention of those who took the matter up in 1909 was to try to benefit the infant zinc-mining industry of the district during the life of the present generation. We hope that, in the swift passage of the years, this intention will be kept in view.

Meanwhile it is possible that more immediate relief may come from Leadville, where a method of treating ores carrying from 10 to 20 per cent. zinc is being sought. Success is not unlikely to crown the Colorado investigators.

CODIFYING THE MINING LAW.

That the work of codifying the mining laws of the Dominion is being pushed rapidly is good news. The Dominion Government, after hearing the strong representations of the Canadian Mining Institute committee, immediately caused an appropriation to be made and selected Mr. J. M. Clark, K.C., of Toronto, to supervise the drafting of the new statutes. This work will entail a colossal amount of house-cleaning and reconstruction. Mr. Clark's shoulders are broad. He has long specialized in mining law, is the author of a standard text-book on the subject, has had long experience in mining litigation, and is an active member of the Institute. At present he is in correspondence with leading authorities in the principal mining countries of the world. Newspaper despatches indicate that his appointment is acceptable in the west as well as in the east.

Important announcements will soon be made relating to the consolidated statutes. Comments and suggestions are earnestly desired. Our columns will be placed at the disposal of any responsible correspondents. There is no need of emphasizing the desirability of co-operation.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The many friends of Mr. F. H. Mason, especially his numerous acquaintances in Nova Scotia, will be glad to learn that, after a long rest at San Diego, California, his health is rapidly improving. The article, "Volatile Constituents of Coal," that Mr. Mason contributes to our columns, is thoroughly well done.

Our Quebec correspondent gives in this issue very satisfactory details as to the changes that have recently taken place in the administration of the Amalga-