

# THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXII.

TORONTO, Sept. 15, 1911

No. 18

## The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the  
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada

Published fortnightly by the

### MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office - - - 17-21-23 Manning Arcade Annex, Toronto  
Branch Offices - Montreal, Halifax, Victoria, and London, Eng.  
London Office - - - Walter R. Skinner, 11-12 Clement's Lane,  
London, E.C.

Editor:

J. C. MURRAY, B.A., B.Sc.

SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for the issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

#### CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post-office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879."

#### CONTENTS.

Editorial .....	577
(a) The Alchemist .....	577
(b) A Commission for Nova Scotia's Gold Mines .....	578
(c) The Evans-Stansfield Direct Steel Process .....	579
(d) Mining in Quebec During 1910 .....	579
(e) The Magpie Mine .....	580
(f) Kildonan .....	580
(g) Ontario's Metalliferous Mines .....	581
Correspondence .....	581
Personal and General .....	582
Topaz, Tin, and Granite in Ontario, by Dr. W. G. Miller .....	583
Sizing for Plate Amalgamation .....	584
On the Slate Industry in Southern Quebec, by Prof. John A. Dresser .....	584
An Appeal to the People of Ontario .....	590
Titanium Vanadium Tool Steel Direct from Ore .....	591
The Distribution and Uses of Titanium Ores .....	593
The Lucky Cross Mines, Swastika, by J. W. Vandergrift .....	597
The Helen Iron District, by Dr. W. L. Goodwin .....	600
Special Correspondence, etc. ....	604

#### THE ALCHEMIST.

The alchemist is not dead. He crops up ever and anon, filled with dreams of things every whit as beautiful as the elixir of life or the fountain of youth. When he butts into the domain of metallurgy his visions are weird. As they appear in the public press, touched up by the reprehensible reporter, they suggest to us the possible joint offerings of Peruna and Mrs. Eddy.

Some years ago, an enterprising Toronto dentist, veiled Dr. J. S. Island, gave up his profession and turned his resourceful mind towards metallurgical experiments. We do not know how deeply Dr. Island studied the metallurgical literature and practice of to-day. From internal evidence we are inclined to believe that he relied upon his own God-given ability, and not upon the records of work already done. He looked upon himself as truly an intellectual island, isolated, intact, unteachable.

Be this as it may, Dr. Island won ready recognition. Stirring newspaper paragraphs have appeared occasionally, until, as climax, the Canadian Courier (a National Weekly!) gave him a full page of journalese on September 9th, 1911.

Our readers are earnestly requested to consider these glittering extracts from the Courier's pages:

"For years Dr. Island has been trying to solve one "problem—the reduction of low grade ores. In Co-  
"balt, Porcupine, California, and Alasaka [Editor's  
"Note.—This applies equally well to the whole ter-  
"restrial sphere.] tons of mineral wealth are going to  
"waste. Only a fraction of the precious metals stored  
"there by nature has been utilized. Mining methods  
"to-date are inadequate. [Editor's Note.—We are  
"glad to learn this. It is news of the first water. We  
"had not suspected that our mining engineers were  
"not doing their duty. Shame on them!] The miner  
"digs out rich veins and sends these ores, containing  
"from 5,000 ounces of gold, silver, or copper to the  
"ton, to be smelted. Lower grade ores, which run  
"about fifteen ounces to the ton, [Editor's Note.—  
"Mark, pray you, the nice distinction between high  
"and low grade ores.] he throws on the dump, because  
"the cost of reduction is too great. Now Dr. Island  
"aims at making it worth while to salvage these low-  
"grade ores. Seventy per cent. of low-grade ores are  
"composed of insolubles. Dr. Island's method is to  
"make soluble salts out of them. . . . He runs them  
"through an ore crusher. Then he places them into  
"specially constructed tanks. Mixed with water they  
"are stirred by a propeller until a creamy lather