probably commend itself to many or perhaps to all of us. While it appears revoluntionary in character it offers a more evident basis for procedure, and there are many who will consider it to be an attack at the real root of the trouble.

"The question of accidents in mines and their causes, when thoroughly considered, leads us to ask how may they be reduced and prevented. To every practical mining man, nothing is plainer than the fact that every mine worker must assume certain legitimate risks common and incidental to his calling. A mining company does not run an insurance business, or guarantee protection of life to any employee they may have, beyond perhaps liability for accidents due to neglect or mismanagement of officials, or inefficient equipment. The responsibility of the mine worker begins when he enters the mine. He must exercise reasonable care, observe proper precautions and obey absolutely the Coal Mines Regulation Act and the rules of his colliery. In the past we have been working toward greater safety. About 50 per cent. of the accidents occurring in the operation of the mines are due to lapses of discipline. A miner will gamble with fate and take a chance, and we shall probably never be able to eliminate these causes of accidents."

ASBESTOS.

Mr. W. J. Woolsey, of Thetford Mines, has the following letter in the Jan. 23 issue of the Financial Times, Montreal:

Editor Financial Times:

Sir,—During a recent conversation with an esteemed financial authority he remarked that "the name asbestos is now a rag in the market," and in view of the nature of the present period of adjustment it might be opportune to present a few of the inherent virtues of the industry as they are likely to develop during future business expansion, and in this letter I would advance the claim on our attention of establishing, as far as expedient, the manufacture of the raw material here in Canada.

A series of discussions on this point with representative men in the industry elicited expressions of opinion ranging from "desirable but difficult," to something which might be interpreted to imply imbecility for not having attained the distinction long ago.

It is useless to repine over the fact that a sum much in excess of what is required to establish this industry has been worse than wasted during the past five years.

The facts before us are these: In your issue of July 4th, 1914, one of your correspondents denied the existence of an asbestos monopoly in Canada, but admitted it for an annual production of 3,000 tons crude. Considering this figure as low and adding our production of long fibre we may claim 10,000 tons, which is either used in the pure state by foreign manufacturers or adulterated by the injurious (for our interests) admixture of foreign materials. The manufacture of these 10,000 tons here would present the following advantages:

1. Increase our exports.
2. Afford a larger labor market. It may be here observed that the labor expended on the long grades of fibres is greatly in excess of that used on shorter grades.
3. Advantageously complement the present industry.

Opposed to these may be mentioned:

1. Force discovery of competing deposits. Of this there can be no more likelihood than in the past.
2. Rouse envy of present consumers. To this it is apparent that the consumer has no direct interest with the manufacturer and only requires the best value for his money.
3. Cannot compete. Our export duty on pulpwood was the applied remedy in a quite parallel case, and import duties could have no force in countries where there were no like industries to protect.

The probability of finding substitutes for our product would not be greater, would, in fact, be lessened, for the reason that our own manufacturers would be more interested to find new uses and to conserve the old ones than foreign manufacturers. It is apparent, too, that our dependence on other countries is in inverse ratio to the number using our goods.

Finally, there is the probability of wounding the feelings of our friends, though we surmise the family relations within the Empire would permit of speedy adjustment, and if the U. S. is not a part of the Empire —well, they obtained all the advantage accruing from the organization of our pulp wood industry.

Yours, etc., W. J. WOOLSEY.

MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

At a regular meeting of the Council of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, held on the 12th of December, 1914, it was resolved that in view of the unusual conditions occasioned by the war, and following the lead of engineering societies throughout the Empire, the Council consider it inadvisable to hold the customary annual meeting and dinner in 1915, and hope that this decision will meet with the approval of the members. It is felt that the social features and the expense entailed upon the Society and the individual members would be inappropriate at the present time or in the immediate future.

An annual meting will be held as directed by the by-laws for the election of officers and the transaction of such business as it may be necessary to deal with.

CANADIAN MINING INDUSTRY.

The Canadian mining industry has suffered less perhaps than any other enterprise, excepting that of agriculture, by the prevailing adverse conditions. During 1914 British Columbia mines produced metals valued at $26,000,000, or about $4,000,000 less than in 1913. The value of Porcupine gold output was $5,750,000, or $1,500,000 more than during the year previous. The production of Cobalt silver was valued at $23,850,000 or about $4,500,000 less than in 1913. The lower price of silver accounted for half of the decrease in value of the latter metal.—Bradstreet's.

CALGARY OIL.

According to the Financial Times, Montreal, Dr. Eugene Haanel, Director of the Dominion Mines Branch, told the annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation, in Ottawa this week, that in his opinion the discoveries made so far in the Calgary oil field, and the prospect of future discoveries, do not warrant or afford any guarantee for people to invest their money.

COPPER RANGE.

All three Copper Range Consolidated mines, Michigan, now are working full time. The men have been assured that this policy will continue for three months at least. After that date further action is dependent upon the metal situation.