

owing largely to enlightened managerial policy, show the lowest death rate per million tons mined. British Columbia's rate has been excessive, but will be reduced when the use of safety-lamps is made compulsory. Alberta, where statistics are very loosely gathered, makes a fair showing.

The metalliferous mines of Canada are not adequately inspected. But, so far as can be determined, the death rate per thousand men employed, is lower than the rate obtaining in many districts in the United States. As regards the newer camps of British Columbia, Ontario, and Nova Scotia, where large numbers of small prospects are being worked, it is manifestly unfair to make comparisons. In well-organized and established mining centres the rate of fatalities will always be lower than in new districts.

Mr. Smith might well have urged that the Federal Mines Branch take up, as a regular duty, the prevention of mine accidents, the Dominion Government has been entirely apathetic in this respect.

#### OTISSE.

The suit brought by E. Kenyon-Stowe to set aside the sale of the Otisse mine to the Otisse Mining Company was thrown out by Justice Latchford on November 24th. Costs are to be paid by the plaintiff.

During the progress of the suit the Otisse mine has been steadily developed, since the owners were fortunately able to finance operations. Hence the obvious purpose of the plaintiff was defeated. He succeeded, however, in harassing and hampering the Otisse Mining Company for considerably more than a year.

The fact that irresponsible persons are permitted to institute mischievous litigation of this kind is a reflection upon our judicial system. The result of this suit discredited Mr. Kenyon-Stowe completely. This, however, is little consolation to those who have suffered from a protracted and groundless lawsuit.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

To our editorial comment upon Mr. Kendall's article we may add here our opinion that every mining engineer who joins the Canadian Mining Institute should give to the secretary a full record of his professional career. Further, it would be well to complete this record by annual additions. This would be one construction step in the "rooting-out" process to which Mr. Kendall refers.

An article that will reveal some startling figures as to actual cost of producing compressed air will shortly appear in The Canadian Mining Journal. It will be accompanied by a series of diagrams that represent actual tests made under working conditions in a leading Canadian mining camp. The name of the camp and

the identity of the mines where the tests were made are suppressed—for reasons that will be obvious.

Our two review numbers, January 1st and January 15th, will be worthy of attention. All the larger mining fields will be suitably dealt with and many new possibilities pointed out.

The closing year has been one of unprecedented activity. The number of foreign investments has rarely been exceeded. German, French and United States capital has come into Canada freely. English investors manifest less aloofness than heretofore.

The strike that is tying up Australian coal mines is having its effect on Canada. Enquiries for coal have reached Vancouver. It is probable, in the event of the strike continuing indefinitely, that orders will be filled at British Columbia collieries.

#### REPORT ON THE IRON ORE DEPOSITS ALONG THE OTTAWA AND GATINEAU RIVERS.

By Fritz Cirkel, M.E.

The iron ores of the valleys of the Ottawa and Gatineau Rivers have been the subject of an investigation by Mr. Fritz Cirkel, M.E., for the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines, and his report has just been published.

The publication of this report comes at a very opportune time, owing to the development lately assumed by the smelting of iron ores by electricity; for the region in question possesses great water powers, a part of which could aptly be applied to the establishment of an iron and steel industry.

After describing in detail various iron ore deposits in the townships of Hull, Templeton, Wakefield, Bristol, Grenville and others, Mr. Cirkel concludes that many of these would yield ores which could in all probability be treated profitably in the electric furnace. It is stated in the report that this method of reducing the iron ores can compete with the blast furnace for the production of pig iron, when electrical energy can be developed at a low cost.

All engineers and metallurgists interested in the iron and steel industry will read the report with interest, more especially the general conclusions, which are given from page 100 to page 107.

An appendix to the report gives a synopsis of the water powers, both developed and undeveloped, in the region under consideration. These data have been compiled from the latest authoritative sources available. The following falls can all be developed to produce large quantities of power: Paugan Falls, Cascades, Chelsea Rapids, Great Falls, Coulange River, Roche Fendue, Calumet Falls, Chats Falls.

The report is well illustrated by five plates, fifteen drawings, and two maps, and the whole forms a volume of 147 pages, which constitutes a valuable addition to the series of bulletins on the mineral resources of Canada issued, under the direction of Dr. Eugene Haanel, by the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines.