

The movement of large quantities of such commodities as iron ore, coal, and gypsum demands traffic organization that is adequate and expansible. It is unfortunate that in Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta the railways are yet far behind the pressing needs of the industry. Hence the two previously mentioned Provinces afford in many instances better industrial surroundings than do the others. Time, of course, will bring improvements all over the Dominion.

But, harking back to our original theme, there are specific localities where foreign capital can seek investment with strong chances of success, chances heightened by an improving market for Canadian mineral products. The molybdenite and graphite deposits of western and northern Quebec require investigation. Much of the unexploited coal area of Nova Scotia is entirely worth while. The building and decorative stones that are found so frequently in the older geological horizons have as yet been practically neglected. Such minerals as gypsum, barite, infusorial earth, paint ores, and so on, await commercial development. In all these there is money to be made, provided always that the investor employs men who know their business and are thoroughly familiar with working conditions.

Another legitimate channel of investment lies in the careful selection and equally careful consolidation of mines now abandoned. This, naturally, is treading upon very delicate ground. But the life history of the average mining camp, more especially of camps that have been opened with a boom, points to the conclusion that the steadiest profits may be expected long after the period of bonanzas is past. Cases could be cited here that would astonish readers who are not conversant with the mining history of Canada. But it is not well to be too specific. Suffice it to say that consistent study of Provincial and Federal reports is one of the best possible guides. Above all it is desirable that the foreign investor be advised by a mining engineer practising in Canada. Not only are initial mistakes avoided, but energy, time, and money are saved by employing a professional man who knows the customs, laws, and red tape of the Dominion. And in dealing with lands controlled by the Federal authorities it is absolutely necessary to possess a first-hand knowledge of red tape—not infrequently adhesive.

To the foreign mining investor who is in earnest, who knows what he wants, and who is capable of taking ordinary pains to be sure that he gets it, Canada is a land rich in possibilities.

STANDARD ENGLISH.

"Mines and Minerals" for September contains an editorial on "Standard English," which is mainly a plea for the use of plain English in mining literature, and the avoidance of localisms. Most persons will thoroughly agree with such a plea, but the writer goes a little further. He states that so far the people in the United States have "spoken better English with fewer

dialects than the inhabitants of the British Isles," and there is not any reason why Americans should adopt old English localisms "that originated in fun or ignorance." The writer then goes on to explain the origin of "inbye" and "outbye," as follows:—

"The former had its inception from some old miner who remarked 'are you going in, bye?' instead of 'are you going in the mine, boy?' and 'outbye' followed naturally."

This explanation must have originated either "in fun or ignorance," for it is utterly fantastic. The words "inbye" and "outbye" have been used in Scotland and the north of England for generations beyond memory, and it may be suggested, with due deference to the boasted freedom of the American nation from dialect, that the pronunciation of "boy" as "bye" smacks more of Pennsylvania than of either Durham or Fifeshire. There are many English localisms that should not be introduced into American mining literature, but the writer in "Mines and Minerals" is unfortunate in picking out for attack such convenient and useful expressions as "inbye" and "outbye." It is a fair challenge to ask what he would substitute for them. The phrases "up track" and "down track" have their significance on railways, the words "indoor" and "outdoor" are good English not liable to be misunderstood, and "inbye" and "outbye" are legitimate words sanctioned by long usage. The idea they convey cannot be otherwise conveyed but by the use of a phrase containing at least half a dozen words, and even then there is a risk of ambiguity. The writer of the "Mines and Minerals" editorial has evidently had little experience in English coal mines or with English miners, else he would not have used the word "boy" in his very ingenious explanation; the English miner says—"lad." It is more charitable, however, to assume that the account of the origin of "inbye" and "outbye" is intended as a solemn joke.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Analyses of iron ore from Arisaig, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, as reported by the Mines Branch, Ottawa, range from very low iron contents up to 53 per cent. Sulphur is uniformly low. Phosphorus ranges from 0.5 per cent. to 1.20 per cent., whilst lime is usually in the neighbourhood of 2 per cent.

A special committee of the British Home Office is considering amendments to rules governing the installation and use of electricity in coal mines. The rules under revision were formulated in 1903 and are adapted rather to the alternating-current system of power transmission than to the continuous-current system.

The silica content of finely divided sulphide concentrate can very seldom be reduced to less than 20 per cent. without disproportionate loss.

During the calendar year 1908, the quantity of silver issued for use in the industrial arts throughout the United States amounted to 23,775,422 ounces.