

THE LIFE OF A MINE.

There are several vital questions touched upon in a paper that appears in this issue, "The Valuation of Mining Areas on the Rand." The writer characterizes the practice of working rich reefs and poor reefs together on average grade as being financially unsound. To get the highest value out of a mine, it is necessary, in his opinion, that the grade in the early part of the mine's life should be higher than in the later years. This should be done, theoretically at least, in such a manner as to reserve the lower grade ore for future operations. In many mines such a course is impossible. But the principle has much to commend it. Mr. Wilkinson's paper should be read carefully.

It is unfair to isolate paragraphs from their context. Therefore we shall not quote farther. But we wish to direct particular attention to Mr. Wilkinson's remarks on the most profitable life of a mine.

SAMPLES—NOT SPECIMENS.

A departure has been made in arranging the mineral exhibits at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition which is shortly to open at Seattle. Heretofore it has been the custom to exhibit the finest picked specimens; a misleading and unconsciously dishonest proceeding. At the Seattle Exposition samples of from one hundred to four hundred pounds of ore will be displayed. Only legitimate mining concerns will be asked or permitted to exhibit. Along with each parcel of ore will be seen samples from the vein walls.

We hope that this will ring the knell of the spectacularly fine ore exhibit that represents, not the average ore of any mine, but the carefully hand picked specimen. Specimens are interesting enough mineralogically; but commercially they are mischievous.

NOVA SCOTIA'S GOLD MINES.

In our last issue we published without comment a communication from Mr. T. A. Rickard, editor of Mining and Scientific Press. Mr. Rickard has taken exception to the attitude of the Government of Nova Scotia in regard to a special report written by him in 1905. Although written at the request of the Government,

this report has never been made public. In Mr. Rickard's opinion, this has done him an injustice.

More light is thrown on the subject in this number of the Canadian Mining Journal. We hope that our readers will follow the discussion closely. There are usually two sides to every question. Our own opinions will not be expressed until the matter is more fully threshed out.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

An especially complete and excellent map of Rossland has just been issued by the Geological Survey of Canada. Director R. W. Brock is responsible for the economic geology, Dr. G. A. Young for the areal geology, and Mr. W. H. Boyd for the topography. The geological and cultural legends are particularly perfect.

The Geological Survey of Canada has also issued a geological map of Gowganda Mining District, the work of Mr. W. H. Collins. The diabase, conglomerate, granite, and Keewatin areas are approximately delimited. The geology, and there necessarily is but a scanty amount, has been worked out by Mr. Collins and Dr. W. G. Miller.

The mines of the Slocan district, British Columbia, have in the past made total dividend payments amounting to over four and one-quarter million dollars. The old Payne holds the local record—\$1,420,000. Next comes the Slocan Star, with \$575,000 to its credit. Six other mines have distributed total dividends ranging from \$400,000 to \$125,000. The district is attracting renewed attention this spring.

The Hon. Robert Drummond, in a speech before the Legislature of Nova Scotia, advocated the appointment of a Provincial Geologist. We heartily endorse this suggestion. Until such an official is appointed, Nova Scotia's mining administration will continue to be incomplete. The further recommendation, that the Government erect public stamp mills for the benefit of small operators, is sanctioned by usage in Australia and otherwheres.

MINING AROUND KASLO, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By E. Jacobs, Victoria, B.C.

Kaslo is the most important town in Ainsworth mining division, in which are situated a number of productive mines. It is on the west side Kootenay Lake, where Kaslo River enters the lake, and is the shipping terminus of the Kaslo-Slocan Railway.

Ainsworth was the pioneer mining district of West Kootenay, for, in 1889, the late Dr. George M. Dawson found mining being actively carried on at Ainsworth (or "Hot Springs," as it was also called in earlier

years), which is situated a few miles lower down the lake than Kaslo.

Early accounts state that about 1890 hardy prospectors pushed their way up Kaslo River as far as Bear and Fish Lakes, on the summit of the divide, and searched for minerals on the adjacent mountain sides. In that year mineral claims were located by John (Lardo) McDonald and John Allen, who were hunting and trapping on what was known as Blue Ridge Creek,