

mitted to disparage the work of men who are infinitely his superiors in technical attainments.

Incidentally, it may be well to refer to a letter, signed by Mr. Louis Simpson, that appeared without comment in our issue of April 1st. This letter illustrates admirably the evil effects that have followed Dr. Haanel's unwise strictures. Otherwise the letter calls for no special comment.

In closing we wish to state that we regret profoundly that it ever became necessary for us to attack the Mines Branch. That department is capable of good work, if it followed the footsteps of the corresponding branch of the United States Geological Survey. But as long as its energies are in any degree devoted to anything but furthering the interests of mining, just so long will the Mines Branch be a menace to the mining industry of Canada.

### THE DAVIS HANDBOOK OF THE COBALT SILVER DISTRICT.

After many delays, occasioned largely by difficulty in obtaining the latest data as to each incorporated company, "The Davis Handbook of the Cobalt Silver District" has made its appearance.

Heretofore it has been a singularly arduous matter to secure without unreasonable loss of time full facts bearing upon the capitalization, directorate, management, equipment, and financial standing of any given Cobalt company. In the "Davis Handbook" all these data are set forth. Complete statistics of dividends paid, ore outputs, etc., are given in tabular form. Also, a list, corrected up to date, of all Cobalt incorporations is presented.

We know that for our own use Mr. Davis' book will prove a blessing. We believe that to Canadian and foreign investors and professional men it will be a time-saver. More especially will the overworked editor, to whom everyone looks for information, rise up and call the book blessed.

It is worthy of remark that this is the first attempt to gather into one volume all necessary facts concerning Cobalt. The Davis Handbook is the crystallized result of several years of hard work. As such it deserves the support of all interested in Canadian mining.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Willett Cobalt Silver Mines, Limited, is a recent incorporation. In the literature published by that company statements are made to the effect that native silver discoveries of some importance have been made on their claims. We are informed, from reliable sources, that no silver discoveries have been made on these claims. This kind of superfluous bad faith is too common. It is high time that the laws bearing on such misdemeanours were made automatic.

Many guesses have been made as to the actual motives that incited the Forget-Osler group to put up such a costly fight for control of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company. In the fullness of time, no doubt, the inside history will leak out. Meanwhile the old directorate has been stirred into a state of unnatural activity.

In Great Britain the violent craze for shares in rubber companies continues unabated. The ordinarily phlegmatic Britisher is capable of wild indiscretion when once he has made up his mind to speculate. An English contemporary, after gathering statistics concerning the leading rubber properties, calculates that on nominal capital the average value of each rubber tree is only £0.31, whilst at the present market valuation the value is inflated to £2.09.

"Dr." Hugo Von Hagen, to whom we paid some attention last year, has placed his mining enterprises in the hands of a receiver. Von Hagen's action against the Colliery Guardian, of London, England, has been dismissed. The worthy Von Hagen failed to deposit security for costs. It is high time for this fakir to be placed under lock and key.

According to the annual report the Dominion Coal Company's net earnings during 1909 were \$1,113,091.09. Total dividends paid amounted to \$810,000. The carry-forward was \$394,419.42. It may be noted that the net earnings during 1908 were \$2,686,202.

Granby directors announced on April 5th that, in view of unfavourable reports being circulated regarding the condition of the Granby Mines, they have decided to engage competent mining engineers to examine and report exhaustively upon the properties. The examination will cover several months.

Available silver reserves in Bombay are reported to be much reduced. General trade is so flourishing in India that it is believed that the Indian Government will shortly make large purchases of silver for coinage.

The perennial rumour of the discovery of coal in Northern Ontario is now going the rounds. We notice that the finds are always announced when the snow is still on the ground. Yet, in the present case there appears to be more than ordinary hope. The seam of lignite that has been discovered shows an excellent analysis and a very respectable thickness. Therefore, in the absence of full facts, it is only just to say that the new discovery may mean much to the Province of Ontario.