

ginning to open itself. Capitalists are already rushing into the country and exploring our mineral regions. Further, they are buying up thousands of acres of mineral lands. Largely the work of assaying is done in the States. This will soon change. Canadians will not lag long. They will soon claim and have the lion's share.

But where will Victoria graduates find themselves? Do they intend to sleep and fold their arms in classic, or metaphysic, or Gallic silence? We hope to hear of several of the undergraduates taking up the advanced work of practical chemistry and mineralogy. Qualitative and quantitative analysis of both organic and inorganic matter should be pushed forward with ever-increasing vigor. Cannot the College Board do something to facilitate this matter and aid the work of the professors?

X.

STEEL PENS.

FIRST the steel is rolled into big sheets. This is cut into strips about three inches wide. These strips are annealed; that is, they are heated to a red heat and permitted to cool very gradually, so that the brittleness is all removed and the steel is soft enough to be easily worked. Then the strips are again rolled to the required thickness, or, rather, thinness, for, the average steel pen is not thicker than a sheet of thin letter paper. Next the blank pen is cut out of the flat strip. On this the name of the maker or of the brand is stamped. This last is a very important factor. There are numbers that have come to be a valuable property to manufacturers. Many clerks say they cannot work to advantage unless they have particular styles of pens. The result is that by passing the word from one writer to another a market is soon created for a favorite style. Each steel pen has therefore to be stamped with sufficient reading matter to identify it thoroughly. The stamping is done with very nicely cut sharp dies that cut deep and clean, so that the reading matter will not be obliterated by the finishing process. Next the pen is moulded in a form that combines gracefulness