

Comparatively few reports on oil and gas have been published by the Dominion and Provincial Governments. During the past month, however, we have received copies of two important contributions. The Bureau of Mines of Ontario has published a report by Mr. Cyril W. Knight, Assistant Provincial Geologist, on Oil and Gas in Ontario, and the Mines Branch, Ottawa, has published a second volume by Frederick G. Clapp and others, on the Petroleum and Natural Gas Resources of Canada. Those who are interested in the oil and gas industries will welcome these publications. Copies can be obtained free on application to the respective departments.

The iron and steel industry has had its share of bad times, but is now well on its way to a period of unprecedented prosperity. It is stated that the U. S. Steel Corporation is now being offered 60 tons of business for every one ton that was offered at this time last year.

Interest in the flotation process of treating ores is becoming quite general, and members of the Canadian Mining Institute are fortunate in having Mr. T. A. Rickard and Mr. E. P. Mathewson promise papers on this subject for the annual meeting in Ottawa in March, 1916.

Lieut. Neil 'Foghorn' Macdonald wants chewing tobacco for his men in the trenches. The Secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute has forwarded a supply and will be pleased to receive contributions.

#### BELGIUM'S MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA.

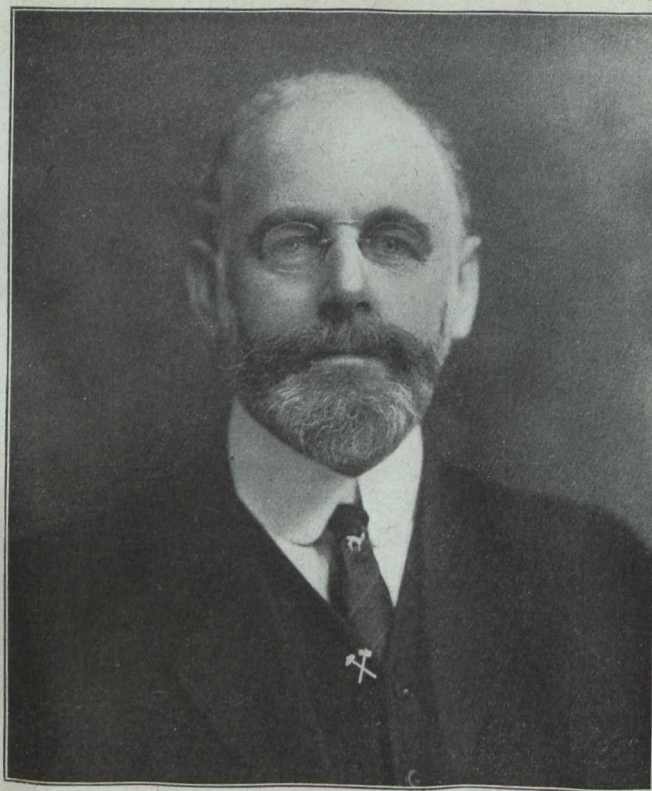
Two representatives of the Belgian Government are expected in the United States shortly for the purpose of raising a loan for that country, according to cable advices. This raises the interesting point as to what Belgium would have to offer, provided collateral were demanded.

Its Congo Free State remains as a free asset, and within the confines of that vast territory are believed to be mineral deposits of great wealth. American capital has been invested there through concessions granted by the late King Leopold, one of which went to the American Congo Co. for rubber grants, and the other to the Societe Internationale du Forestriere et Miniere for mineral and timber rights.

The rubber concession was secured through the efforts of Thomas F. Ryan and the mineral-timber rights by A. Chester Beatty, a well-known mining engineer, who obtained them through a personal visit to King Leopold at Brussels. Thus far, at least, the rubber concession has not proved profitable. Development of the mining properties has been conducted for the past nine years with favorable results.

Ownership of stock in the Societe Internationale du Forestriere et Miniere is understood to be evenly divided between the Belgian Government and a number of Americans, including T. F. Ryan, members of the Guggenheim family, A. C. Beatty and several others, Mr. Ryan being the largest stockholder.

Drilling for oil has been pushed, while metals have been sought. The concession covers about 18,000,000 acres. New York at present directs its affairs, owing to Belgium's stress.



**PROFESSOR JAMES FURNAM KEMP, who has been forced, through illness, to take a prolonged rest from his duties at Columbia University.**

#### CONSOLIDATED MINING AND SMELTING CO.

Shareholders of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada have received a circular announcing the issue of a new block and including a statement of the affairs of the company. The right of shareholders to subscribe to one new share for every five held, at par, is already known, shareholders being those on record on November 12. The right to subscribe will expire at noon, December 15.

The company has had a busy year. The circular indicates the remarkable expansion in the company's capacity for production. When plans now being carried out are complete the lead capacity will have been increased 60 per cent., and on a more economical basis. Not only is the company in a position to produce zinc commercially, but at the request of the Shell Committee at Ottawa a zinc production plant was installed at Trail to have a daily capacity of thirty-five tons of refined zinc. This involved a substantial expenditure on capital account. The zinc output for 1916, however, has been ordered by the committee at profitable prices.

The Shell Committee also requested that the company should undertake the refining of copper—a new Canadian industry. While this new departure will be carried forward on a limited scale at first, it is expected to develop and involve the treatment of much of the matte and blister copper taken from British Columbia mines. The committee have ordered at fair prices the output of refined copper during 1916.

#### ALGOMA STEEL.

The Algoma Steel Corporation, in common with the other large steel companies of Canada, is booked up months ahead. The change in the company's position since before the war is the result of the heavy demand for steel required for the manufacture of shells. All orders now on the books of the corporation are at good prices.