

miles wide, has disappeared, effacing the outcrops of many valuable seams of coal. If this process be repeated to the extent of only one mile more, it is equally evident that all the outcrops now visible will be washed away, leaving 'not a wreck behind.' If correct plans are made, showing the position of every seam, at a future time, when all traces of them have disappeared, they may be reached by cross-cuts driven from the bottom of shafts sunk upon the adjacent shore, and worked under the sea."

It is comparatively recently that the Mabou mine, which lies some six miles to the northward of Port Hood, was flooded from the sea, and it is improbable that this mine will be re-opened. The Government of Nova Scotia can hardly err in taking whatever steps they deem necessary to prevent the flooding of the accessible portions of these submarine areas, because it may well be that such occurrences may render it impossible ever to mine the coal-seams that lie further out to sea.

Doubtless, the unfortunate accident at Port Hood will add something to our knowledge of the mining of submarine coal, and some useful deductions may be made for future guidance when more definite information is available. It may not be generally known that by far the greater portion of Nova Scotia's coal seams are submarine, and it is difficult to exaggerate the importance of their conservation, since they constitute the main source of the Provincial revenue. They also constitute the best guarantee for the future industrial development of the Maritime Provinces and eastern Canada in general.

SALARIES.

Not once, but many times, have we urged upon the powers that be the policy of paying higher salaries to the officers of the Federal Department of Mines.

In the last annual Summary Report, Mr. R. W. Brock, Director of the Geological Survey, puts the case strongly. In part, he writes thus: "The salaries paid to technical officers are too low. . . . More will have to be done if the Survey is to attract and retain the type of man that is needed to secure good results. . . . The first requirement is the man; the facilities for work are of only secondary importance."

Mr. Brock then proceeds to show that the system of gradual promotion is inimical to the Survey's best interests. The lowest salaries paid to technical officers are attractive only to young graduates who have a reputation to make. Such men are engaged by corporations at the very time that their services are becoming of value to the Survey. The loss to the Survey, which is forced to begin all over again with raw material, is serious.

Another problem presents itself when experienced geologists are attached to the staff. These men can be held only by giving them the highest salaries paid by the Survey. Manifestly this is unfair to the older offi-

cers whose salaries increase slowly from year to year, and who have not yet reached the highest division.

Mr. Brock does not suggest any alternative for the present system, the imperfections of which need no demonstration. He confines himself to asserting that larger salaries are needed if the Survey is to retain its dignity and its usefulness.

We are inclined to believe that the solution of the difficulty lies in the hands of the Director, in part at least. Naturally he will be helpless without larger support from the Government. But there are matters of internal economy that call for immediate change. For instance it is a patent absurdity to apply to the Survey the same graduated classification of officers as is applied to clerical departments of the civil service. The Survey officers are essentially technical. If classification be necessary at all, it should be as simple as possible. Merit and special qualifications should count more, and long service less.

Incidentally, the anomalous and unseemly "time-book" should be consigned to the scrap-basket. In view of the fact that the Survey staff is composed of reputable professional men, and is not a miscellaneous assortment of irresponsible clerks, the idea of forcing each officer to record his goings and comings is futile in the extreme.

It seems but fair to say that the Survey's claims will be listened to with more favour as soon as it has been placed upon a professional and not a clerical basis.

FAME.

What is fame? The answer is easy. A capable press agent can bring you a surfeit of fame — if only you point a cheque-book at him. And no one has been luckier in his press agent than Mr. John Hays Hammond, "Special Representative of the President of the United States of America" at the Coronation.

In an anonymous appreciation of Mr. Hammond that was published in the London Daily Mail lately, it is stated, metaphorically and hyperbolically, of course, that Mr. Hammond "can smell a gold mine a thousand miles away." There follows mention of the passionate yearning of the Czar of all the Russias to meet the man who could exercise, with so much benefit to his nation, his olfactory upon undiscovered mineral riches.

But, as the effusive scribe points out, Mr. Hammond has forsworn mining and is to devote the remainder of his time and energy, not to mention his acute sense of smell, to the cause of international peace. So eloquent is the admiring agent that a brooding feeling of security immediately descends upon us.

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What it costs in mere money to reach the heights that Mr. Hammond has reached, we can only guess. But there remains no doubt that he is famous and will remain famous. He stands unique, alone, the man with