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MINES BRANCH SUMMARY REPORT.

The summary report of the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines, Ottawa, for the calendar year ending December 31st, 1911, has just been received. During that year, according to the statement of the director, Dr. Eugene Haanel, four technical officers have been added to the regular staff, and three clerks to the non-technical staff. There are now nine divisions, each under a chief officer and all fully organized, except that of the explosives division. Mr. J. G. S. Hudson is the only officer assigned to this division, nor will additions be made until the proposed Explosives Bill shall have become law. That there is dire need of a restrictive law is becoming more and more evident every day. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Mines Branch will very soon be enabled to complete this important part of its organization.

The preliminary reports on field work deal with a large variety of subjects—the building stones of the Maritime Provinces, the nickel industry, copper and pyrites, iron ore, Canadian markets for mineral products, gypsum and salt, feldspar and phosphite, moisture in fuels, explosions, statistics, etc.

It is a matter for congratulation that the Mines Branch is now comfortably and adequately housed in the building formerly occupied by the Geological Survey Branch. This old structure, whose walls are more than ordinarily sound, has been completely reconstructed inside, has been added to, and has, moreover, been most ingeniously adapted to the needs of the Mine Branch. Its convenient situation is a great advantage. Instead of occupying parts of five scattered buildings, the Mines Branch staff is now consolidated under one ample roof.

Reference is made by the director to an arrangement entered into by the branch with the Kingston School of Mining. Under this arrangement the School of Mining has undertaken to carry on for the Mines Branch certain metallurgical investigations "of a directly economic character." Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, formerly of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been chosen to direct this work. The investigations will cover the uses of cobalt and its alloys, the uses of nickel copper iron alloys, and the electrical smelting of iron ores.

The Mines Branch, judging from the summary report, is making a vigorous attempt to widen its sphere of usefulness and to direct its efforts in channels of economic importance.

DREAMS.

The Standard Coal Company of British Columbia, if one may believe Mr. W. F. Alloway, jr, trustee, is a