

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXI.

TORONTO, August 15, 1910

No. 16

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada

Published fortnightly by the
MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office . . . Confederation Life Building, Toronto.
Branch Offices Montreal, Halifax, Victoria, and London, Eng.
London Office . . . Walter R. Skinner, 11-12 Clement's Lane,
London, E.C.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for the issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post-office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

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STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS.

In a series of resolutions the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America has given expression to its opinions upon the instruction of mining students in practical mining. These resolutions we shall quote in their entirety:

Resolved, that it be recommended to mining and metallurgical operators that facilities be granted to undergraduates of technical schools to inspect the operations of their mines and reduction works; and, moreover, that such undergraduates be afforded the privilege of gaining actual experience in carrying out the various operations.

Resolved, that the instructors in our mining schools be urged to impress upon their students the importance of supplementing their technical education by experience in practical operations and association with working conditions and workmen, both of which are essential to ultimate success.

Resolved, that operators, consulting engineers, and managers be urged to consider the importance of developing and maintaining a trained force of young technical graduates in their various departments, and in taking such graduates into their employment, and be urged to devote the requisite personal attention to these graduates in order to insure the proper development of such assistants, believing, as we do, that this co-operation will be of mutual value to the operators and the graduates by creating a trained force that will be of value to the industry.

The subject having thus been dealt with in a general sense, it is next proposed to go further and to decide such questions as that of the length of time to be devoted to such apprenticeship, etc.

Unquestionably this is a commendable effort. Not only will it safeguard the profession, but it will also tend to improve the breed. To gain practical knowledge of mining and smelting the student relies mostly upon his own luck in getting a "job" during his summer vacation. In the greater proportion of cases he is forced by circumstances to accept work that has little or no bearing upon his future career. Hence valuable time is lost, and energy that should be devoted to the study of his profession is diverted to the sordid task of collecting enough money to put him through college.

It is true that in Canada every effort is made by the professorial staffs to obtain suitable employment for students. To this end mine owners and operators are canvassed early in each year. But results are not uniformly satisfactory. There is, naturally, more or less rivalry between our mining schools. Hence not a few