

### NOVA SCOTIA MOVES

While Nova Scotia is supplying her sister Provinces with politicians and the larger sort of educationist, and has been exporting professors to the United States, she has chosen for the head of her new Technical College a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mr. Frederick H. Sexton, whose appointment to the Directorship of Technical Education in Nova Scotia, and to the Principalship of the Nova Scotia Technical College in Halifax, has just been announced, has for the past four years occupied the chair of Mining and Metallurgy at Dalhousie College, Halifax. During these years he has succeeded in establishing a thorough and eminently practical course of instruction in those important branches. He has acquired, moreover, a knowledge of the peculiar conditions which delimit the industrial development of Nova Scotia, more especially as regards mining and metallurgy. With the initial advantages of youth, of a brilliant academic career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and several years of research work and practical experience in previous appointments, Mr. Sexton is well furnished, professionally, for his responsible task. Further, however, Mr. Sexton, by the quality of his work, by his unwearied enthusiasm and by his unusual modesty, has won the warm friendship of all mining men. The Canadian Mining Journal extends to the new Director its heartiest wishes for all success. Nova Scotia has long needed such an institution as the new Technical College, and, we are confident, such a man to govern it as her newly appointed Director of Technical Education.

### ASSAYERS

British Columbia points a moral for Ontario. In the former Province examinations for efficiency in the practice of assaying are held under the direction of a Board of Examiners. Persons wishing to practice as assayers must pass this examination before being granted a license. An entrance fee of fifteen dollars is charged, and successful candidates are called upon for an additional fee of fifteen dollars for their certificates. Candidates are examined on their knowledge of the principles of inorganic chemistry, of sampling, of the qualitative determination of the common elements in ores and furnace products, of assaying of gold bullion, copper bullion and lead-copper bullion, and of ores and furnace products. An adequate knowledge of the methods of analysis of coal, and of the standard methods of determining copper, nickel, iron, lead, lime, zinc, sulphur and silica, must be shown. The candidates are also examined in mineralogy. Graduates of certain Schools of Mines and Colleges are exempt from examinations, and may receive a certificate of competency upon payment of the fee. The examinations are largely practical.

It will thus be readily seen that British Columbia does not recognize as an assayer a man who can merely determine the amount of gold in an ore. The Province

very wisely demands that certificated assayers must display a thorough familiarity with all the ordinary processes of qualitative and quantitative analysis. Candidates who come up to the necessary standard are very likely to be men of intelligence and honesty. We venture the statement that had the Province of Ontario exercised the same precautions in restricting the practice of assaying to qualified men, many of the fabulously rich assay returns reported from Larder Lake ores would never have seen the light of day. Some restrictions are absolutely necessary. Ontario cannot do better than to immediately follow the example of her Western sister.

### PROSAIC MINERALS

While the mineral riches of New Ontario and the new promise of re-vitalized British Columbia have latterly attracted seekers after wealth, certain prosaic branches of the mineral industry are being carried on with quiet though increasing success. In the last number of the Canadian Mining Journal an outline was given of the extent and importance of asbestos mining in Quebec. The present issue contains an article written by the person who has contributed not a little to developing in Canada a successful graphite industry. In a future issue the mining and working of another economic mineral, mica, will be taken up.

In attacking and removing the difficulties that lay in their paths, the pioneers of these lesser industries had none of the glittering incentives that are held out to the seeker after precious metals. Slowly, surely, but with many discouragements, they have exploited their deposits, solved one by one the problems of mining and treatment, and have obtained a market. In every best sense of the term their work has exemplified the *true business* of mining. The iteration of that phrase, "business of mining," is intentional.

Figures of output are important, but more important is this, that Canada possesses several thriving industries and that these owe their existence to the sane, well-directed, practical intelligence of men who have faith in themselves and in their own country.

The Federal Government has devised new legislation which will undoubtedly be acceptable to Western coal consumers. It is provided that in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon Territory coal mining rights may be leased for twenty-one years at an annual rental of one dollar per annum, payable in advance. No applicant shall be allowed to lease an area larger than 2,560 acres. The area taken up by one applicant must not exceed four miles in its greatest dimension, and all holdings by one person must be contiguous. Applications are made through the Dominion Lands agent, or through a sub-agent of the district. Thirty days are allowed an applicant for registering a location in unsurveyed territory. The lease includes only coal mining rights. The Minister may, however, permit the purchase