

000, the syndicate undertook to develop and prospect the property on a scale that was, perhaps, hardly warranted. A smelter was erected at Northport. Diamond drilling was begun, and sinking and driving pushed vigorously.

At least \$20,000,000 in gold has been taken out of Le Roi. For some reason—there are those who assert that the mine has suffered from a surfeit of London management—Le Roi has never yielded continuous profits. In any case, its tenuous existence has been brought to a close. And simultaneously expire the hopes and expectations of many hundred unfortunate shareholders.

TO THE INVESTOR.

The mining boom serves a special purpose. It advertises the country, it stirs men to abnormal activity, it induces the circulation of enormous sums of money. These are its benign aspects. We need not dwell upon the other side of the shield.

But, psychologically, the mining boom leads men astray. Currents and gusts of enthusiasm sweep the investor off his feet, he follows the crowd, and, usually, is lost. . . .

We have recently returned from a visit to Eastern Canada. In those parts precious metal mining is supposedly dead. Despite this popular impression, we feel safe in stating that nowhere in Canada are there more numerous and more easily available opportunities for making legitimate profits in mining of all kinds.

It were unseemly to be too specific. We should hardly care to be the moving cause in a wild rush to the east. But it is at least impressive to run over the list of minerals that are known to exist in workable quantities. That list includes tungsten, gold, antimony, manganese, gypsum, barite, infusorial earth, talc, copper, and iron. Prospects of tin are known. Throughout certain portions of Quebec alluvial gold awaits modern investigation. It may be asserted without fear of contradiction that nowhere can the investor acquire promising property more cheaply and nowhere can he, in the main, get a better run for his money.

THE GEOLOGIST AND HIS GLIM.

Many centuries ago a Chinese prophet brought upon himself the scorn and contumely of a younger generation because he refused to commit himself to an opinion concerning the future life. To-day that prophet's name is still revered. His critics are lost in the beneficent obscurity of the ages.

The modern analogue of the Oriental prophet is the geologist. His business in life is to make a commercial diagnosis of scenery. So varied and so open to various interpretations is the evidence of nature that the geologist must often halt and stumble. Hence he gives the

young scoffer his opportunity. And from all sides we hear shrill voices rising against the geologist.

Whilst we shall refrain from expressing our own opinion as to the ultimate value of the geologist, we shall not miss the chance of expressing our sincere sympathy for him. His is a most distressing lot. His mistakes are chalked up against him for all time. His achievements are not remembered. Is it possible that he should be more dogmatic? Is it probable that he obscures his light under a bushel of technical terminology? Perhaps, and we make the suggestion in all due modesty, perhaps if the geologist were to talk to us in words of one syllable, all of us would be happier.

THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION.

The universal tendency to sneer at Royal Commissions has not been so marked in the case of the recently appointed Federal Commission on Technical Education. Sneers there will be, but we believe that all serious citizens hope and expect excellent results from the work of this latest Commission.

The cordial welcome extended by the city of Halifax, when the Commission's labours were formally opened, was a most auspicious start. Without undue loss of time the Commission tackled its proper work, the work of collecting facts, figures, and opinions, as to the educational needs of this country. At present the Province of Nova Scotia is being covered. Later the whole of the Dominion is to be worked over.

We believe that from the array of evidence to be collected by the Commission many valuable facts will emerge. Its final report should be a document of great significance. But we are yet firmly of the opinion that the Commission lacks balance, inasmuch as its membership comprises no representative of the mining industry.

This omission can easily be rectified. The point should be pressed upon Ottawa insistently and unremittingly.

THE HAMMER DRILL.

One of the most interesting of recent papers is that entitled "Hammer Drills in Overhand Stopping and Raising." As the author, Mr. H. B. Williams, gained his experience in a Canadian mine, the paper has a particular claim upon our attention.

The comparative merits of the reciprocal and of the hammer drill are not yet determined. Much can be said on both sides. Probably both types have been unfairly criticized. But the fact appears to be established that the hammer drill is a necessity in narrow stopes. Mr. Williams' statement of comparative costs is startling, and his general assertions as to the efficiency of the hammer drill are most radical.