

Certain British journals are solemnly warning their readers of the Cobalt "wildcat" proposition. Investors must be thoroughly sick of hearing of the Cobalt faker. If Cobalt from the first had been considered a mining district and nothing more, all would have been well. Certain interested people gave it a moral halo, with the result that people who knew not the difference between a stock certificate and an income tax account plunged wildly into the net of the first enterprising gentleman with unlimited cheek and an encyclopædic vocabulary. Investors have been told to discriminate when dealing with Cobalt. They ought to know that. The impudent will always prosper on the shekels of the ignorant. When Barnum was about to turn away thousands from his show one day he quickly fixed up a side show and admitted the overflow at the usual price. "This way to the lioness" was the first sign, "This way to the tigress" was the second, "This way to the egress" was the third. When people found themselves in the street they were surprised. Cobalt investors should keep clear of the side booth.

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In our issue of August 23rd we wrote editorially regarding the treatment of municipal engineers by councillors and others in municipal control. In another column, under the heading, "Municipal Engineers," we publish a letter on this subject from Mr. J. Grant MacGregor, from which it is evident that Mr. MacGregor is entirely in accord with what we said in the editorial above referred to. As the writer says: "Could anything be more humiliating to a member of the engineering profession than to have a board of men selected from the ranks of the trades and industrial classes preside over his deliberations in formulating plans which call for the display of the utmost scientific skill and ingenuity on his part?" The doctor's prescription goes unquestioned; the lawyer's seal is final. But the engineer's findings hardly, if ever, go unassailed "with friendly suggestions as to the cheapest and most practical way of performing the work." We do not advocate that an engineer's report on any subject should be taken as final, but when a man, who has spent the greater part of a lifetime in preparing himself and gaining experience in order that he may perform certain duties, is questioned, or given suggestions by men who know little, or nothing, regarding the subject, it is certainly ridiculous. Of course, the representatives of the people are responsible for work that is done, but no representative of the people is elected because he is a specialist in any one line. He should be elected on account of his ability to appoint experts for special works, and to decide on matters of general policy. No engineer will go ahead with a work of any magnitude before consulting his brothers in the profession, and these are the men who should say what is to be done. If they are not capable of doing this, certainly men unacquainted with engineering subjects are not able to do so.

### BOOK REVIEWS.

**Shaft Sinking Under Difficult Conditions.**—By J. Riemer, publishers; John Wylie, New York. Size, 9 x 6, pp. 174. Price, \$3.

This work consists chiefly of a revision and amplification of previous publications dealing with shaft sinking. It has been published in order that a wider circle of mining engineers will be interested as well as students of this branch of engineers. The authors have omitted in other works incorporated any matter that has become obsolete, and have used in place detail descriptions of more modern methods now requiring discussion. As the title would indicate, the only methods explained at length deal with shaft sinking under difficult conditions. The first methods described deal exclusively with modern methods of hand labor. The book gives a brief review of methods actually in use, and contains enough illustrations to explain all details of these methods. A particular feature of the work is a full description of de-

tails of each piece of work, giving the reader ample opportunity to form his own judgment. It contains eighteen engravings and nineteen plates. Among other topics dealt with in this book are the following:—Shaft sinking by hand, shaft sinking by the boring system, the freezing process, and drop-shafts.

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**Grinding and Tapping.**—By J. V. Woodworth. Published by Hill Publishing Co., New York and London. Price, \$2.

This valuable work contains many engravings and half-tones of tools, machines, grinding fixtures, laps and lapping devices and arrangements, as well as combination fixtures for presenting duplicate work to grinding operations from the simplest to the most intricate in modern use. The use of these is not only described, but the design and construction is carefully explained. The work is explained in such a practical manner, that all grades of metal-working mechanics may be able to understand how to design, construct and use them for the economic production of the variety of machine parts and tools required to-day. An idea of the value of this work may be obtained from a synopsis of the fine sections into which the book is divided. Section 1, deals with grinding,—conditions, rules, methods, processes, machines, and attachments for accurate grinding as well as the use and preparation of abrasives. Section 2 has to do with taps and tapping,—construction and use of tools and processes for finishing gages, tools, dies and machine parts to accurate dimensions. Section 3, treats of construction, use and operation of grinding fixtures and jigs, for finishing repetition and articles of metal, small hardened and tempered steel parts and special work. Section 4 has to do with the hardening and tempering of interchangeable tool steel parts of delicate structure which require to be ground and lapped afterwards, while the concluding section deals with the percentage of carbon crucible steel parts, and tools should contain, temper colors to which they should be drawn; and degrees of heat for giving them proper temper. This book is of special interest to machinists, tool-makers, die-makers, and all connected with a metal-working plant will find it highly instructive.

### MINING.

#### Ontario.

**COBALT.**—Ore shipments for the week ending September 28th were: Buffalo, 60,000 pounds; Foster, 128,000; Nipissing, 178,210. The shipments since January 1st now total 9,227 tons.

**KINGSTON.**—Owing to the exceptionally large attendance at the Government School of Mining this session it has been found necessary to make the following appointments: Mr. W. O. Walker, M.A., Toronto, lecturer in organic chemistry. Mr. J. B. McKay, B.Sc., of Queen's, assistant in mineralogy and metallurgy. Mr. E. W. Henderson, B.Sc., Pittsburg, Pa., a graduate of the school, lecturer in electrical engineering. Mr. Lindsay Malcolm, M.A., B.Sc., city engineer of Stratford, lecturer in civil engineering. Mr. Wyatt Malcolm, of Queen's, fellow in mineralogy.

The Independent Telephone movement in Canada is growing rapidly. The time is opportune for the establishment of a plant to supply equipment for the new companies that are springing up all over the Dominion. The Swedish-American Telephone Company have grasped the opportunity, and Mr. E. B. Overshiner, president of that company, has organized the Dominion Telephone Manufacturing Company, Ltd., with a capital stock of \$250,000. The company will manufacture telephones and accessories for the use of Independent companies.

The location of the factory has not yet been decided upon, but according to the prospectus it will be in Ontario, and the site will be selected solely with regard to economical and efficient operation and distribution.

Full particulars may be procured by addressing the company at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, where the temporary office is located.