

# SCIENCE

VOL. LVII JANUARY 12, 1923 No. 1463

## MINING IN CANADA

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>Mining in Canada:</i> DR. J. B. TYRRELL.....	31
<i>The Scientific Resources of France:</i> DR. THEODORE C. MERRILL.....	38
<i>Recent Work in Paleobotany:</i> PROFESSOR NEVIN M. FENNEMAN.....	44
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>The Old Ashmolean Museum at Oxford; The National Office of Eugenics in Belgium; Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer; The International Conference on the Standardization of Serums.....</i>	45
<i>Scientific Notes and News.....</i>	47
<i>University and Educational Notes.....</i>	52
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>A Proposal for Wild Plant Conservation: DR. C. STUART GAGER. That Chemical Spelling Match again: PROFESSOR C. A. JACOBSON. A Scientific Clearing House: DR. HAROLD C. BINGHAM.....</i>	52
<i>Quotations:</i>	
<i>Voluntary Stupidity.....</i>	55
<i>Developed and Potential Water Power of the United States.....</i>	56
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>Thermionic Effects caused by Alkali Vapors in Vacuum Tubes: DR. IRVING LANGMUIR. The Oxidation of Selenium by a New Group of Autotrophic Microorganisms: PROFESSOR JACOB G. LIPMAN and DR. SELMAN A. WAKSMAN.....</i>	58

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, publishing the official notices and proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

### THE SCIENCE PRESS

100 Liberty St., Utica, N. Y. Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.  
Entered as second-class matter January 21, 1922, at the Post Office at Utica, N. Y., Under the Act of March 3, 1879.

CANADA covers the northern half of the North American continent, having an area of 3,729,665 square miles. About 700,000 square miles of this great area are covered with rich fertile soil, 900,000 square miles with forest, and 120,000 square miles with lake, etc., while over about 200,000 square miles the surface is buried under a thick blanket of moss. The remainder of the country, as well as some of the forested area, is rocky, and a study of how this rocky country should best be utilized for the benefit of mankind, is one of the greatest research problems of this age, a problem beside which most of those undertaken in our small laboratories dwarfs into insignificance.

The prospector and miner are the men who at the present time are doing most to work out the solution of this problem. In their work they have been assisted for the past eighty years by the Geological Survey of Canada, one of the earliest scientific research bureaus to be established on this Continent, and also, but in later years, by the Geological and Mining Bureaus of the various provinces.

In the 16th century when the gold and silver mines of South America and Mexico were attracting the attention of many of the leading men of the different nations of Europe, Canada did not entirely escape attention, for in 1576, three years after the rich gold mines of Minas Geraes of Brazil had been discovered, Martin Frobisher, one of the great sailors of the "Elizabethan Era," sailed from the Port of London in search of a northwest passage north of the Continent of America to Asia, where fabulous stores of metallic riches were believed to exist. He did not get half way to his destination, but was stopped by ice in a bay on the east side of Baffin Island, whence he returned to England. After his return a

<sup>1</sup> Address of the president and vice-president of Section M, American Association for the Advancement of Science, December, 1922.

# Science

**57 (1463)**

*Science* **57** (1463), 31-60.

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