

piece for the district in the legislature, and the channel through which public money flowed to the district.

The Amulree Commission saw clearly a close connection between local government and good government on a national scale:<sup>1</sup> "As there was no local government, he (the member) was expected to fulfil the functions of a Mayor, and of every department of public authority . . . This political system, combined with the effects of the credit system in the fishing industry, weakened the fibre of the people." And again: "The absence of any form of municipal government and the conduct of the entire administration from St. John's . . . have had an unfortunate effect upon the people in retarding the development of a public spirit and a sense of civic responsibility."

With this in mind the Amulree Commission naturally enough went on to conclude: "The formation of municipal governments in the more important outports, under proper control, and with the proper safeguards, would do much to induce a sense of responsibility in those called upon to contribute towards the expenses of such governments. We hope that steps will be taken to form municipalities as times improve, and we recommend that the new Government should do all in their power to encourage such a movement."

This recommendation has never been

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Newfoundland Royal Commission 1933, pp. 82, 83, 217, 218.

carried into effect, and there is no indication that the Commission of Government has given the matter the slightest thought. Perhaps the argument is that "times have not improved."

The danger is that autonomy may again be restored to Newfoundland without any preparation being made for that event. The restoration may come either as a demand from the people, as the Commission grows more unpopular or, at the end of the war the British Government may freely confer it under the impression that it would be a suitable reward for faithful war service.

The Commission of Government will have to realize, with more clarity and unanimity than it does now, that it is essentially a committee of reconstruction as well as a watchdog for the bondholders. One of the biggest jobs of reconstruction is to prepare Newfoundland for the resumption of self-government. And that of necessity involves the fostering of a system of local government, along municipal, regional or other lines. Too much centralization will merely lead again to "apoplexy at the center and paralysis at the extremities."

Perhaps, after all, the initiative must come from the Newfoundlanders themselves, and there are already a few encouraging signs of such an awakening. Or it may be that Newfoundland will enter the Canadian confederation and the local government experience of Canada will find its way into the oldest colony.

## Comments on Mining in Nova Scotia

By G. VIBERT DOUGLAS

**N**OVA SCOTIA is a mineralogical museum. From beautiful zeolites to massive nickeliferous pyrrhotite there is a great range of minerals, diverse in form and composition. A museum how-

ever is not an emporium, and while Nova Scotia can boast of a great many species it cannot boast of large quantities of all of these minerals.

The province has large reserves of coal and gypsum. A sizeable deposit of barytes is being developed at the present time. There is one good deposit

EDITOR'S NOTE: G. Vibert Douglas, M.C., M.Sc. F.G.S., F.G.S.A., M.E.I.C., is Professor of Geology at Dalhousie University.



of salt, and numerous salt springs which may indicate others. These are the chief mineral deposits involving fairly large tonnages.

In a different class are the gold, tungsten, tin, molybdenum, antimony, arsenic, manganese, iron and copper deposits which on the whole are small though often rich. These require all the ingenuity of the ablest mining engineers to make them economical.

Garnets, which are useful for abrasives, infusorial earth and zeolites, which have properties of value as absorbents, come in a class of their own.

There are large deposits of dolomite, limestone and shale which are potentially valuable but are not being worked to any notable extent at present.

Building stone of various kinds, notably the Wallace sandstone, is available for construction. The Province Building in Halifax is an example of the excellent weather-resisting properties of this beautiful stone, while for bricks there is a considerable quantity of clay, which is also utilized for piping.

Blomidon amethysts give Nova Scotia its gem stones, though many of the amethysts sold in the province are of foreign origin.

In the past there have been many attempts to make producing mines of ore-bodies of gold, tungsten and the other metals previously mentioned but of these ventures few have been successful. The reason why the balance has been on the side of failure is attributable in large measure to incomplete knowledge of the size and tenor of the ore-body in the initial stages of the operation. An attractive looking vein showing gold is found. A shaft is sunk and a mill is erected. Subsequent underground work fails to reveal any considerably body of ore. The original capital becomes exhausted and the shareholders after a few attempts to find ore are discouraged. The enterprise is a failure. If there had been a portion of the original capital expended on exploration and had the extent of the ore-body been accurately determined before the mill was built,

the financial loss would have been less. There are numerous cases in the past and examples at the present time which bear out the truth of this statement. It is an unfortunate thing that plausible promoters can extract hard-earned cash from the public by the portrayal of rosy prospects. This article will have repaid the author if it does nothing more than warn its readers to beware of promoters who talk big. The shortest way to the front door should be indicated swiftly to such personages, for they are a menace to the well-being of a community.

The only sound way to approach a mining venture is to remember the following things:

1. A mine at best is a diminishing asset.
2. It is utterly fallacious to assume that it will get better at depth.
3. Only invest in a mine, and especially a prospect, what you can afford to lose or would be willing to stake on a horse race.
4. Demand full and reliable information regarding—
  - (a) Tons of ore proven and indicated.
  - (b) Value per ton of the ore.
  - (c) Number of tons per day or per year it is proposed to mine.
  - (d) Cost of mining a ton of ore.
  - (e) Cost of treating and marketing a ton of ore.
  - (f) The number of shares that are being issued.

From these figures it is possible to find out how much you can expect to receive in dividends.

There are communities in Nova Scotia that are poorer to-day because they invested in mining projects glowingly described by promoters who were lacking in knowledge and in honesty.

Up to the present Nova Scotia has not been able to help the war effort very much with the supply of minerals other than coal because it has been cheaper to buy the required materials such as manganese, tungsten, antimony and molybdenum than to mine the known deposits