

THE
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EDITORIAL NOTES.

ALTHOUGH the situation with regard to the future of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE is still somewhat critical, it is satisfactory to be able to state that the worst anticipations have not been realized. At one time it was feared that the present number would have to be the last, but we are glad to be able to announce that it is proposed to carry on, for the present at any rate, in the hope of better times to come. But it cannot be too strongly emphasized that the future rests with our subscribers. Many promises of active support have already been secured, and the outlook is more promising than it was a few months ago. While still maintaining all the old features and the general traditions of the Magazine, every attempt will be made to move with the times and to give due weight to new developments. Geology has now become a science of the widest practical importance in all parts of the world: some of the apparently most abstruse and theoretical investigations of late years were primarily undertaken to subserve economic purposes and have proved to yield results of the highest value and importance in technical practice of all kinds. Unfortunately this fact is little realized in this country, and it is the duty of all modern geologists to keep in touch with such new developments wherever they are to be found, whether in America, Scandinavia, or Germany. Geology is necessarily an international science; it will be our desire and hope so far as in us lies to assist in making known its latest developments, of whatever nature they may be. Above all we shall endeavour to avoid that insidious blight of parochialism and narrowness of interest which has at times threatened to manifest itself in British geology, especially in isolated provincial circles, and to accommodate ourselves to the widening spirit of the times in which we live. Although our circulation is not large, it is wide: we have many contributors beyond the seas, and one of the pleasantest features of the Editorship is the opportunity that it gives for friendly personal communications with these distant workers on subjects connected with geology in all its branches.

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At the Anniversary Meeting of the Mineralogical Society, held on November 4, the following Officers and Members of Council were elected: President, Sir William P. Beale, Bart., K.C.; Vice-Presidents, Professor H. L. Bowman, Mr. A. Hutchinson; Treasurer, Dr. J. W. Evans, F.R.S.; General Secretary, Dr. G. T. Prior, F.R.S.; Foreign Secretary, Professor W. W. Watts, F.R.S.; Editor

of the Journal, Mr. L. J. Spencer; Ordinary Members of Council, Mr. H. F. Collins, Mr. J. P. De Castro, Professor H. Hilton, Mr. Arthur Russell, Dr. A. Holmes, Miss M. W. Porter, Mr. R. H. Rastall, Sir J. J. H. Teall, F.R.S., Mr. A. F. Hallimond, Dr. F. H. Hatch, Mr. J. A. Howe, and Mr. W. Campbell Smith, M.C.

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THE Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider and report on non-ferrous mining in the United Kingdom has apparently lost no time in getting to work. It was decided to deal with the tin-mining industry first, and a good deal of expert evidence has already been taken. The general opinion of mine-managers from Cornwall, with one or two notable exceptions, seems to be in favour of the policy of amalgamation and concerted development with a view to the reduction of costs and increased production. Several witnesses expressed the view that some form of Government subsidy was highly desirable, and the advance of £1,000,000 to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company was quoted as a precedent. Nevertheless, the idea of nationalization did not seem to receive much sympathy. The Cornish tin and wolfram mining industry rendered signal services to the country during the War, and this should make the Government and the nation all the more inclined to afford assistance towards the development of this important branch of our mineral resources. The geological evidence appears to be all in favour of the existence of rich deposits of tin at deep levels, both in hitherto unworked areas and in districts where many shallow mines have been abandoned: it is much to be wished that opportunity should be given to test the validity of the conclusions largely founded on scientific reasoning.

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THE Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau has issued a kind of interim Progress Report showing the steps that have already been taken. The Charter has now been received and numerous committees are already formed, consisting of experts in each branch together with representatives of technical and scientific societies dealing with that special subject. It is satisfactory to find that arrangements have been made with the Imperial Institute by which duplication and overlapping will be avoided and a harmonious co-operation assured. Similarly the Home Office has handed over to the Bureau certain duties hitherto performed by it in connexion with the Annual General Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines. The compilation of part iv of that Report, British Empire and Foreign, will in future be undertaken by the Bureau. Two lists are appended to the report showing the countries with which the Bureau is in active correspondence, either directly or through diplomatic and consular offices. The present writer is not aware of the geographical position of the state of Latvia, nor is it clear why information as to the Dutch East and West Indies and Guiana should be obtained from the Colonial Office, Copenhagen, or as to Nicaragua from the Central Statistical Office at Christiania.