

of the southern plains of Alberta with revisions necessitated by observations made since G. M. Dawson's report on this area was published over thirty years ago. The area includes the Bow island gas field. A short paper by W. G. MILLER entitled "Petroleum in Canada" is to be found in Bulletin 28 of the Geological Society of America, and a note by M. Y. WILLIAMS calling attention to an unprospected anticline in Ontario can be seen in the Canadian Mining Journal, Volume 38.

Nickel.—The most complete and exhaustive report yet published on the nickel industry of the world came from the press during the year 1917. This is the "Report of the Royal Ontario Nickel Commission," printed by order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Full descriptions are given of the numerous large deposits of the Sudbury nickel range and of the Alexo mine of Dundonald township, Ontario. There is also a discussion of the origin of the ores. Other nickel deposits than those of Canada were visited by the Commission, and descriptions are given of all known occurrences, particular attention being given to those of New Caledonia, the only other country producing a considerable quantity of nickel ore. Other matters that occupied the attention of the Commission were the questions of mining, smelting and refining, the commercial application of nickel in the manufacturing of chemical compounds, in alloys and in steels, and the taxation of mines and mining industries. This well illustrated report will assuredly stand for years as the most authoritative treatise on the nickel ores and the nickel industry of the world. A very extensive bibliography is given.

A number of articles appeared during the year containing discussions of the origin of the Sudbury ores, but very little of this discussion is based on further field investigations. One of the most important papers is that by TOLMAN and ROGERS in one of the Leland Stanford Junior University Publications, California. Through a microscopic examination of the ores the conclusion is reached that "although the ores are believed to be magmatic they have been formed at the end of the magmatic period by the replacement of the silicates." This paper is reviewed by J. F. KEMP in *Economic Geology*, Volume 12. Papers by A. P. COLEMAN, MYRON DRESSER, and A. M. BATEMAN, on the origin of the Sudbury ores are to be found in *Economic Geology*, Volume 12, and a short paper on the same subject by C. V. CORLESS in the *Canadian Mining Journal*, Volume 38.

Platinum.—A number of metals of the platinum group, platinum, palladium, iridium and rhodium, occur in the nickel-copper ores of Sudbury, the first two occurring in greater quantity than the others. These are recovered from the matte in the process of refining. A discussion of the question of the quantity of these metals found in the Sudbury ores is given in the "Report of the Royal Ontario Nickel Commission." A small quantity of platinum is recovered from the placers of Tulameen river, British Columbia (5).

Potash.—It is occasionally rumoured that immense beds of potash salts have been discovered in northern Alberta. Some of these rumours probably have their origin in the knowledge that