

The conditions for mining change with the increase of transport facilities, with the development of new local markets, and with the growth generally of industries and technical science. Facilities of the kind that are necessary to encourage enterprise should thus be reviewed at reasonable intervals. No rules can hold good for longer than a few years, but their revision at frequent intervals tends to unsettle the confidence of business men, which of all bad policies is the worst.

It is the business of a mining company to make as much profit as possible out of a mineral deposit during the period of its mining lease; it is the business of government to safeguard a national asset of vital importance which cannot be replaced or renewed. But it is better for a country that its mineral deposits should be worked than that they should be left lying idle. The mineral policy of a government is thus the choice of a judicious mean between extravagance and conservatism; and, as the values of minerals vary with the industrial development of a country and that of the countries with which it is in trade communication, this judicious mean will gradually shift its position between the two extremes. Thus, the whole problem of framing and working a mineral policy for a large State is a choice of the judicious mean in all things—rents, royalties, periods of tenure, and size of areas leased.

There is a fundamental difference between State ownership of mineral rights and State ownership of mines, but there is a prevalent tendency, and therefore danger, of lumping both together as similar forms of Socialism, thus bringing them both into the arena of party politics. Legal doubts about security of tenure, absence of clear title to surface rights, local variations in length of lease and rate of royalty, the independent necessity of acquiring wayleaves and water-rights, are frequent accompaniments of the private ownership of minerals, and they all adversely influence the financier who is asked to underwrite a mining enterprise in an area in which he is not otherwise interested. The

end effect of these disadvantages is a handicap to the enterprise, which, like every other item of cost in mining, results in a loss to the State of some part of its mineral reserves.

The mining industry differs fundamentally from others: mineral deposits cannot be transplanted from one country to another; no nation, not even the British Empire, and much less any Dominion, is self-contained; minerals are essential for the maintenance of our commercial life and for military security; yet they can be worked once, and once only, in the history of a nation; the necessity for exchanging minerals between the Dominions involves the question of their fiscal interrelations; the necessity of exchange with other nations affects our foreign relationships. The importance of being safeguarded in mineral resources is only in a degree greater than the importance of being able to smelt our own ores.

There are good reasons, therefore, for classing mining with most of the public utility services, that is, as an industry that might be safeguarded by State action, without the intervention of party politicians or fear of doctrinaire Socialism.

Official and State-aided organisations already exist for the collection and publication of mineral statistics, but institutions of the sort, in order to retain the public trust in them for reference purposes, properly avoid the discussion of those conditions that affect finance and therefore the progress of exploitation. There are so many phases of the two complementary industries of mining and metallurgy which require a wide range of specialists for judicial consideration, that the task of making a survey of our mineral economics might be safely entrusted to those institutions at home and in the Dominions Overseas that have joined in organising the Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress and Council. It is suggested that these institutions be invited forthwith to inaugurate special surveys for their appropriate territorial units, each being left to follow the plan that appears to it most suitable to the special conditions of its own Dominion and State.

### The National Museum of Wales.

THE formal opening, by their Majesties the King and Queen, of the National Museum of Wales, took place at Cardiff on April 21, at a ceremony characterised by great dignity and splendour. Fifteen years ago their Majesties laid the foundation-stone of the building, and, in fulfilment of a hope expressed on that occasion, they graciously consented to open the first portion of the institution to be completed. Representatives from all parts of the Principality, embracing every side of the national life and thought of Wales, were present, while Mr. C. Tate Regan, Director of the British Museum (Natural History), and Mr. J. Charlton Deas, President of the Museums Association, represented the national and public museums of Great Britain.

Their Majesties were met on their arrival by Lord Kenyon, President of the National Museum of Wales, Lord Pontypridd, Lord Mostyn, Lord

Treowen, Lord Aberdare, Sir William Reardon Smith, the Treasurer of the Museum, and Dr. Cyril Fox, the Director. Mr. Dumbar Smith, the architect of the building, was presented to the King and asked His Majesty's acceptance of a mallet with which to perform the ceremony. Their Majesties then proceeded to the Entrance Hall of the building where the main ceremony took place. A loyal address on behalf of the Court of Governors and of the Council of the National Museum was read by Lord Kenyon and replied to by the King, after which the members of the Council of the Museum were presented to their Majesties. In the course of his reply to the address the King paid a well-merited tribute to the high ideals and achievements of the Museum, to the liberality of its benefactors, and to the wise planning and skilful designing of the building. He spoke of the valuable help the Museum could render by culti-

vating in the Welsh people a sense of beauty, a love of national scenery, and a pride in their nation's historic past, and by kindling a spirit of loyal service to its future welfare.

Under the guidance of the President and Director of the Museum, the King and Queen then made a tour of inspection of the building, in the course of which the King unveiled three tablets naming the Lord Glanely Gallery, the Pyke-Thompson Gallery, and the Reardon Smith Gallery, commemorating the principal benefactors.

Before and during the ceremony a delightful programme of music, under the direction of Sir Walford Davies, Mr. Warwick Braithwaite, and Mr. W. M. Williams, was given by a mixed choir of 300 voices drawn from choral societies all over Wales, the Cardiff Musical Society, the Romilly Choir, and the Cardiff Orchestra of the British Broadcasting Corporation. The occasion was a most auspicious one for this great Institution and a fitting inauguration for work of such first importance as that which it is seeking to do.

The idea of a National Museum for Wales was born more than thirty years ago, but the practical commencement of the scheme may be

said to date back to 1903, when a resolution approving the scheme was moved in the House of Commons by the late Mr. William Jones, seconded by Mr. (now the Right Hon. Sir) J. Herbert Lewis and supported by Sir Alfred Thomas (now Lord Pontypridd). In 1905 a Special Committee of the Privy Council decided upon Cardiff as the most fitting locality for the Museum, and the Cardiff City Council allocated the magnificent site of five acres in Cathays Park on which the building is now in process of erection. The then existing Corporation Museum in Cardiff formed the nucleus of the national collection.

The Royal Charter establishing the Museum was granted in 1907, and in 1908 the first Director, the late Dr. W. Evans Hoyle, was appointed to the post. With characteristic energy, Dr. Hoyle threw himself into the work of preparing details of the requirements for the proposed building, and in 1910, after open competition, the design of Messrs. Smith and Brewer was accepted out of 130 competitors. The foundations of the south front and parts of the east and west wings were commenced

in 1911 and the foundation-stone was laid by the King and Queen in 1912. The War, unfortunately, necessitated the complete suspension of building operations when only about one-half of the superstructure was completed, and the adverse conditions of post-War years, with the increased cost of building which accompanied them, has delayed the completion of these first portions of the Museum until this year. Even now it has been possible to do so only through the magnificent gift of £21,000 from Sir William Reardon Smith, the Treasurer of the Museum, which enabled the Museum authorities to appeal to the people of Wales for funds to complete the superstructure commenced fifteen years ago.

The National Museum of Wales is one of the best-designed Museum buildings in existence. The wide knowledge of museum construction and requirements possessed by its first Director, together with the skill of a most understanding architect, have combined to produce a building of great beauty, strikingly individual in character, yet dignified and nobly proportioned, in which both exhibition galleries and workrooms have been successfully planned on the lines of the



FIG. 1.—National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Front view.

most modern ideas of museum construction.

The entrance hall, the scene of Thursday's historic ceremony, is one of the chief glories of the building. It consists of a central octagon roofed by a lofty dome, with lateral bays extending the full width of the south front. The beauty of its great interior is of simple character arising out of structural necessities, fine proportions, adequate and well-placed lighting, and sound, beautiful craftsmanship.

The building opened by the King and Queen last Thursday represents little more than a quarter of the contemplated scheme. In it, however, separate galleries are available for zoology, botany, geology, archæology, oil paintings, water colours and prints, while the lateral bays off the entrance hall are to be devoted to sculpture, so that it is possible to lay down the general lines on which all sections of the institution will be developed.

The completion of this first portion has already had a stimulating effect. Lord Buckland has made a donation of £35,000, and Mr. Lewis

Lougher, M.P., one of £5000 towards the building fund, and, as these donations will be augmented by equal grants from the Treasury, it is hoped to make an early start with a further portion of the east wing, which will include a much-needed lecture theatre.

The purpose of the Museum has been aptly stated in the phrase, "To teach the world about Wales and the Welsh people about their own Fatherland," and it seeks to fulfil this purpose in a large variety of widely spread activities. In the first place, it is actively engaged in the collection and preservation of all kinds of material bearing upon the archaeology, art, history, and natural history of the Principality, and presenting to the public a selected series of objects from this material in readily intelligible and attractive form, from which the story of the country in all its aspects can be studied. Secondly, it is doing a great deal of valuable educational work by means of lectures and demonstrations to schools, colleges, societies, and institutions of all kinds throughout Wales, and by an organised system of loan

collections, which are sent out to all parts of the country, especially to national organisations such as the Royal Eisteddfod and the Royal Agricultural shows. It encourages and works in close cooperation with local museums in all parts of Wales and helps them by means of loans and curatorial assistance. Through the medium of its printed guides and other publications, information regarding the contents of the Museum in the light of recent research is provided in convenient, popular, and strictly scientific form. It is a valuable

adjunct to the University of Wales, especially to the University College of Cardiff, the students of which make regular and frequent use of its resources in the prosecution of studies covered by its activities. Lastly, it is itself a research institution, and most valuable work has been done by the staff. Reference need only be made to the important excavations undertaken at Caerleon, Caerwent, and other important archaeological centres in Wales under the auspices of the Museum,

to realise that this important aspect of Museum work has been given a conspicuous place in its policy. Equally important, though perhaps less well known, research has been accomplished on the natural science side.

The Museum of Wales owes much to its first director, Dr. W. Evans Hoyle. It was he who conceived the broad lines of general policy on which the work of the Museum is based, and it is to his ripe experience of museum matters that the success of the institution as a museum must be attributed. His successors in office, Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler and Dr. C. Fox,

have continued the tradition established by him. Under direction so able and with purpose so lofty, the success of the museum as a national institution, reflecting national life, ideals, and thought, is assured.

It is to be hoped that the stimulus of last Thursday's ceremony will result in the speedy completion of the whole building, so that the work of the Museum may go forward unhampered and unimpaired for want of adequate accommodation and facilities.

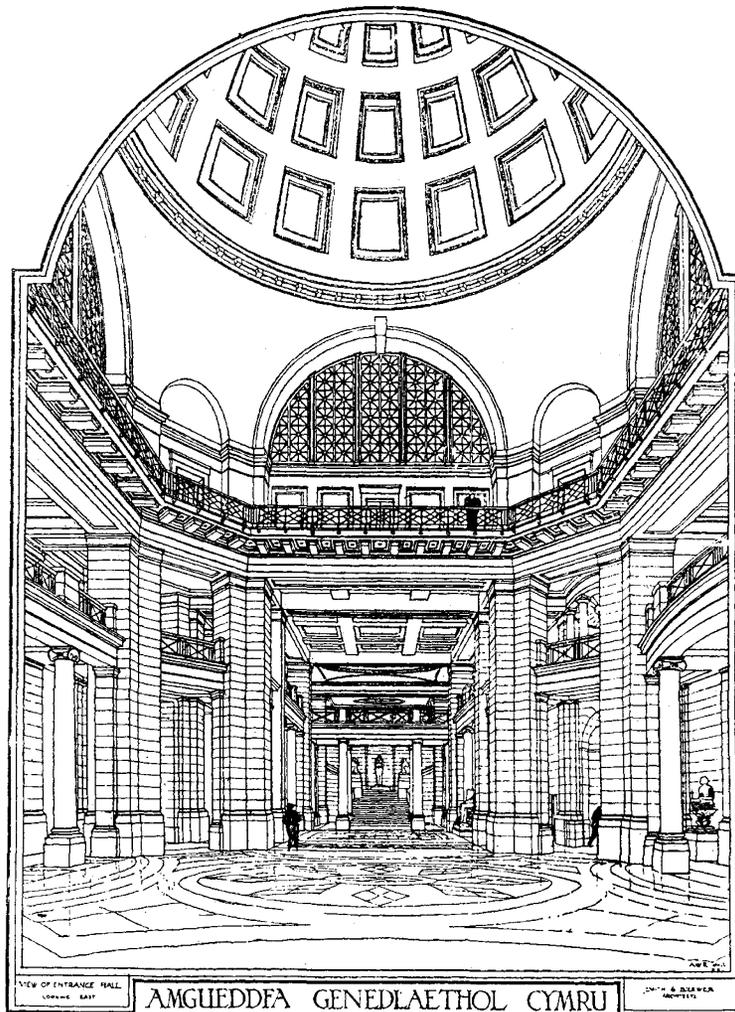


FIG. 2.—Entrance Hall of National Museum of Wales.