

Mr. Anthony Blum, president of the Laurentian gold mine, Manitou Lake district, Ontario, visited the property recently, returning with a gold brick valued at about \$6,000, the results of a month's clean-up. The name of the company has been changed to the Imperial.

Mr. H. Mortimer-Lamb, Secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute, visited Toronto early in January. Mr. Lamb has had several interviews with the Provincial and Federal Governments recently concerning the expected summer visit of the British Iron and Steel Institute.

Mr. R. H. Stewart, manager of the mines of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, was married on December 26th to Miss A. A. Will, of Toronto. Mr. Stewart is a graduate of McGill, Mrs. Stewart a graduate of Victoria. The wedding took place in Victoria Chapel.

On Wednesday, January 15th, a Western Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute was organized in Nelson, B.C. Mr. Frederick Keffer, of Greenwood, who is president of the parent society, occupied the chair, and Mr. A. H. Gracey, of the Eva mine, acted as secretary. In all twenty-four members were present. There were also present others who will be added to the membership in due course. After Mr. Keffer had briefly outlined the objects of the new branch, a formal motion was made by Mr. S. S. Fowler, seconded by Mr. C. P. Hill, that "we now constitute ourselves a Western branch of the Canadian Mining Institute." This was carried unanimously. The following officers were then elected:—President, Mr. A. B. Hodges; secretary, Mr. E. Jacobs; executive council, Messrs. P. S. Couldrey, R. H. Stewart, L. Hill, O. E. S. Whiteside, W. M. Brewer, J. C. Haas, E. C. Musgrave, J. McEvoy and S. G. Blaylock.

President Hodges in his opening address stated that the whole reason for the formation of the Western branch is that the busy members of the West cannot attend the meetings of the Institute held in the East. He recommended that a committee of three be appointed to look into the by-laws of the Canadian Mining Institute. Accordingly, Messrs. S. S. Fowler, L. Hill and J. C. Haas were appointed and instructed to report on the morrow. Mr. E. Jacobs, editor of the "B. C. Mining Record," thanked the members for electing him to the position of secretary. He added that the Western branch had now almost 150 members, and that it would shortly attain a membership of 200.

Mr. Jacobs then remarked: "In view of the fact that the Department of Mines is now organized, it would be politic for us to draft a resolution congratulating the Dominion Government upon its establishment and expressing appreciation of the useful work done in the West by the Geological Survey and, as well, with reference to the statistics gathered by R. R. Hedley throughout the province." Mr. Jacobs also called attention to the fact that it had been said that the Canadian mint could not use Canadian metal for its work, inasmuch as there was no refinery for certain metals within the Dominion. This was not the case, inasmuch as there was such a refinery at Trail. This matter should be taken up by the Institute.

The secretary was instructed to prepare a resolution along these lines.

The meeting then adjourned.

Mr. S. S. Fowler, on behalf of the Nelson members, tendered an invitation to the members to be present at a dance in the Hume Hotel.

Mr. Frank B. Smith has been commissioned as Inspector of Mines for the Dominion to look after the royalties on coal lands sold in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WESTERN BRANCH OF THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

Victoria, B.C.,

The Editor,

January 18th, 1908.

CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL.

Dear Sir,—Accompanying this I send you an account of the first meeting of members of this branch of the Canadian Mining Institute. Although the attendance was not as large as had been hoped for, it was considered good by those who made the arrangements for the meeting, having been representative of the chief lode—and coal—mining sections of British Columbia to a degree regarded as satisfactory, especially when it was taken into account the long distances most members reside from a convenient central point, and the difficulty busy officials usually experience in leaving their posts for four or five days at a time. Interest in the proceedings was general among members present, and was well maintained throughout the several sessions held. It is known that one immediate result was the nomination for membership in the Institute of at least a dozen other men actively associated with mining or smelting in the Northwest, while there was expressed by the leading members of the branch a determination to increase the total number of Western members of the Institute—now about 125—to fully 200 within a few months. With so comparatively numerous a membership, and the fact that it is both influential and representative, together with the active following up of the movement so successfully inaugurated at Nelson on the 15th inst., there does not seem to be room for doubt that eventually this auxiliary organization, launched under distinctly auspicious circumstances, will prove materially beneficial to the mining and smelting industries of Western Canada, and, it is hoped, in some measure also of those of adjacent parts. Your valuable co-operation is therefore earnestly invited.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Yours very truly,

E. JACOBS,

Secretary of Western Branch.

One of the unnecessary burdens under which English companies, operating Canadian mines, have almost always suffered is that of costly administration. In the annual report of Le Roi Mining Company, Limited, we notice that a clerical staff is maintained in London, Eng., at an annual cost of \$10,000. This is a wasteful duplication. Almost all necessary clerical work can be and should be done at the mine. The company's affairs in England might easily be handled at one-quarter of this outlay.