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### ANOTHER SUGGESTION

In our last issue reference was made to the unprofitable period of quiescence, intervening between the annual meetings of the Canadian Mining Institute. We wish now to touch upon another matter, which, we submit, is of paramount importance.

Under the system now obtaining, the offices of Treasurer and Secretary are distinct. The Treasurer is remunerated at the discretion of the Council. He regulates and records all receipts and disbursements. All cheques for money to be paid are signed and issued by him, and all cheques and other negotiable paper made payable to the Institute are endorsed by him. At the end of the financial year he presents a duly audited statement.

The Secretary resides in Montreal. Upon him devolve the duties of keeping a true and correct record of all the proceedings of the Institute, and a correct list of the members and student members. He conducts the correspondence of the Institute, issues notices of meetings and has the seal of the Institute in his keeping. He, also, is remunerated at the discretion of the Council.

The duties of the Treasurer are light. His remuneration, we understand, amounts to \$500 per annum, and only a small fraction of his time is devoted to the service of the Institute. The Secretary, on the other hand, is kept at least fairly busy and receives a regular salary.

With these preliminary explanations we wish to lay before the members of the Institute a few carefully considered proposals.

It is undoubtedly true that the matter of remuneration should not be left to the discretion of the Council. In practice, this tends to render the Secretary's position insecure and in certain matters weakens his hand. The division of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer is unnecessary at present. Were the two functions combined and the salary of the Secretary-Treasurer fixed at a sum equal to the total now received by both officers, the new position would be one of much greater dignity and strength. Indeed, we would go farther. We venture the prediction that, were the Secretary's position thus strengthened and were he assigned a respectable sum of money for travelling expenses, the membership of the Canadian Mining Institute could be doubled within twelve months. And it must be remembered that with a membership of one thousand the matter of the Secretary-Treasurer's salary and travelling expenses would be relatively smaller than at present.

Without doubt, the Institute needs revivifying. Equally without doubt the office of Secretary is not clothed with sufficient authority or discretion. The