

"To administer a properly devised system of government in pecton of all mines and the conditions surrounding mineral productions of all kinds, including coal and petroleum, in the interests of those employed therein.

"To collect statistics covering the whole field of mineral production which shall be an exhaustive and therefore as authoritative as those collected by the Department of Agriculture with regard to agricultural production.

"We submit that by the aid of suitable legislation appropriating the proceeds of the sales of the mineral lands of the United States to the uses of the proposed department of mines and mining, such a department can be made self-supporting, and need not be in any sense a burden upon the taxpayer.

"We urge upon your attention the fact that the same reasons which have made the creation of the Department of Agriculture of the greatest utility to the whole country, exist for the creation of a department of mines and mining, and that these reasons must be apparent to every candid mind.

"First—In the magnitude of the industrial field to be covered.

"Second—In its primary importance and necessity to every branch of trade, manufacture and transport, as the supplier of raw material.

"Third—In the amount of capital invested.

"Fourth—In the number of men employed.

"Fifth—In its relations to our foreign commerce.

"Sixth—In its general effect upon a more intelligent and effective direction of all these energies."

The argument that similar good reasons exist for the establishment of a Department of Mining as for a Department of Agriculture, the usefulness of which is beyond all doubt, should commend itself to all interested in the advancement of Canada by the fuller utilization of its great natural resources. As British Columbia's proportion of the total mineral production of Canada is now larger than that of any other province of the Dominion—is in fact nearly as large as the production of all Canada east of the Rocky Mountains, it is evident that the interest of this Province in a movement of this kind is a very considerable one. If a Department of Mines be a necessity for the United States, one is equally needed for Canada, and particularly for British Columbia, the mineral resources of which are enormous. The foregoing arguments are therefore earnestly commended to the attention of all desirous of assisting in the development of the natural resources of the Province, whether directly interested in mining or not.

It is doubtful whether the mining sections of this Province are, on the whole, taking anything like an adequate interest in the collection of minerals and are making other necessary preparations to ensure the mineral resources of British Columbia being well represented at the St. Louis World's Fair next year. It should not be forgotten that the Exhibition Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, which will have charge of all exhibits from Canada, is already appointing the space at its disposal, preparing catalogues, and otherwise getting into shape the arrangements for the Canadian exhibit. The purpose of this reference to the St. Louis Exhibition is to impress upon the mining districts of the Province that no time should be lost in getting their mineral collections together and in notifying the Exhibition Department at Ottawa of the nature and extent of the exhibits they intend sending through that department. Professor Joseph A. Holmes, in a paper he recently read before the American Institute of Mining Engineers, submitted for the consideration of members some important facts connected with the proposed mining exhibits at this Exposition. He stated that one of the great purposes of the Mines Department of the Exposition will be to show the nature of the underground expansion that has taken place in the United States, the equipment used in the mining operations of today, and the metallurgical equipment and processes employed in the preparation of mineral products for use by the people at the present time. The larger part of the exhibits in the American section of the Mines Department will therefore be arranged so as to show the condition of the mineral industry as it is to-day, and to illustrate its development during the past century. He gave much detail relative to the five groups—these in turn divided into fifty-three classes—the exhibits in the mining department will be arranged in, and stated, in brief, that "as far as this may be possible of attainment, these exhibits are all planned and will be installed with a view of having them tell the whole story as to our mineral resources; how they are mined and brought to the surface, and how they are transformed by the metallurgist and manufacturer, and thus made ready for use by the people." In mineral and mining exhibits from foreign countries the Mines Department of the Exposition is asking that special prominence shall be given to those branches of the mining industry which are prominent in that particular country, and also those that are largely exported from that country. And in the metallurgical exhibits it asks that each country's exhibit shall show especially the processes and products of those branches of metallurgy which are being largely promoted and developed in that country. Of course any exhibit, in-