

The collieries of Alberta and, in less degree, those of Saskatchewan, will be more active this summer. Manitoba is taking her clay industries more seriously. Ontario expects the first fruits of Porcupine. Gold bars should be not infrequent exports from that camp. Quebec's asbestos industry is shaping up better than could have been hoped a year ago. Her copper industry, also, has been revived. New Brunswick is cheered by the development of an encouraging gas- and oil-field. Nova Scotia's coal outputs are growing steadily. Soon tungsten-ore will be on her regular list of mineral products. Her gypsum trade is waxing. Lastly, there is every prospect of a marked increase in the gold yield of the Yukon.

From almost all aspects, the year 1911 should exceed 1910 by more than 1910 exceeded the preceding year.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

The Annual Meeting of the Institute on March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, was undoubtedly pleasant and profitable. It is true that the sessions lacked the piquancy of some previous occasions when the results of hard-fought elections were about to be announced. But ploughshares are more to be desired than poniards. Yet a row is an excellent vent for our spleen. Lacking this vent, we must fall foul of somebody. Hence we have resolved to give some good advice to those who guide the affairs of the Institute.

First, however, we must express our keen sense of the hospitality extended to the delegates by Quebec. Not only was the street-car service placed at our disposal, but all delegates were given the freedom of the Garrison Club. These, and other courtesies, helped decidedly to make every one feel thoroughly at home. But best of all, was the warm greeting vouchsafed by the Quebec Government through the Hon. Mr. C. R. Devlin. That gentleman warmed the cockles of our heart by the unmistakable glow that marked his welcoming speech. We shall not easily forget either his Celtic exuberance, his Gallic vivacity, or his Canadian shrewdness.

One fact, which should be appreciated by all members, is that we owe a debt of gratitude to the United States visitors who so regularly attend the meetings. To these gentlemen much of the success of every annual convention is to be credited. Not only would their absence rob the regular sessions of a great deal of interest, but the smoker and the dinner would suffer immeasurably. To them, then, we tender our sincere thanks.

We return now to our self-assumed task of offensive criticism. In the first place, a well-organized reception committee is an absolute necessity. At present far too much falls upon the shoulders of the Secretary. It is, naturally, impossible for one person to see that everybody is properly bestowed. Hence arise many annoyances. An active committee of half-a-dozen members could readily smooth the troubled waters.

Moreover, there is little effort made to welcome the younger members and to introduce them to their seniors. This is a serious omission, an omission that should not be apparent next year. The suggested committee could best undertake this duty. If this is to be overlooked in the future, there will be grave danger of losing the interest of the younger generation.

Another point, one that hardly assumes the dimensions of a grievance, but one that is a source of some discontent, is the arrangement of the papers. Here, of course, the Secretary has our sympathy. The list of papers is always impossibly long. Until the actual time for reading arrives it is not possible to know of a certainty if the author is or is not to be present. Often, also, the person presenting a paper takes up an indecent amount of time, and so dislocates the programme. But these are not insuperable obstacles. We believe that, in the main, the programme can be so arranged as to make almost literal adherence to it quite feasible. Long papers are anathema. They should be read by title, or, at worst, presented synoptically. The salient and debatable points of any paper can be outlined in a very short time. No one speaker should be permitted to occupy the floor for more than half-an-hour. Discussions should be pointed, apposite, and brief. The chairman should be able to call anyone to order without giving offence. In fact, he might well seize such opportunities as occasions for adding to the humour of the meeting. In any case, we need far better control of our meetings. Energy, time, and patience are wasted as matters now stand.

Again, there is room for criticism of the nature of the papers read. The greater number of these treat of pure geology, or are entirely academic. The fault here lies with the mining men themselves primarily, and, secondarily, with the officials of the Institute. But, apart from distributing the blame, it is to be remembered that the mining man, per se, is not interested in remote geological problems. He is keenly interested in practical work. And his attention can be held only by papers and discussions that overlap his own experience. Even if stated papers on practical mining are not presented, time should be reserved for dealing with professional mining topics.

These philippics are sufficient to indicate the views of the submerged three-quarters of the Institute. We all hope to make our society mean more and more. We are justly proud of its prominence and activity. But the time has come when younger members should be given a larger share in the proceedings.

One final suggestion remains. There is no adequate reason for holding the annual meetings in March. The summer months would be much more suitable. Short excursions before and after the sessions would thus be made possible. Travelling would be easier, and the attendance larger. In fact, a change of this kind would be most acceptable. One incidental advantage would be the facility with which torrid geological disputes could be settled out of doors.