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CIRCULATION.

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MINING ENGINEERS AND MINING INSTITUTES.

Mr. J. D. Kendall, in a forceful article printed in this number of The Canadian Mining Journal, asks an exceedingly pertinent question. "Why," enquires Mr. Kendall, "should men who know their business, and are prepared to do it honestly, allow a large part of it to be taken from them by imposters who . . . are always ready to barter a favourable opinion for an approved monetary consideration, and who in doing so bring disgrace upon a profession which, when properly practised, is in the highest degree honourable? . . . The rooting out of imposters must, at all times, make for the benefit of a mining country generally."

The rooting out of imposters is left, in Canada, to the individual or to circumstances. Public sentiment is lax. Professional sentiment is uncrystallized. Hence Canada is a favorite hunting-ground for the fake mining expert.

Mr. Kendall recommends that every person practising as a mining engineer should be compelled, by law, to become a member of an institute to which admission shall be gained only by examination. Those eminent in the profession might safely be exempted from examination. But, in all ordinary cases, the requirements for admission should be as rigid and as exacting as possible. Persons practising before admission to the institute should be liable to a heavy penalty.

With the spirit of Mr. Kendall's proposal we are in hearty accord. The problem of elevating and regulating the profession of mining engineering in Canada is urgent. We are not sure, however, that we can go as far as Mr. Kendall indicates. Our Canadian Mining Institute is in process of change. Full membership is no longer attainable by the layman. But the present membership is miscellaneous. Hence, although the institute can concern itself effectively in many public questions, it must avoid the dangerous ground of professional qualifications.

A solution, however, has been suggested. Restrictions as to admission cannot be made retroactive. They apply only to the present and the future. But segregation can be effected within the institute, by the creation of a special professional section. This, properly managed, should be robbed of all invidiousness. It will not discount ordinary membership, but will place a definite meaning on special membership. And ordinary membership should be always a preliminary stage.

In this special membership should be included only those who can qualify under some such scheme as that outlined by Mr. Kendall.