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LEGISLATION AND THE "MINERS"

SINCE the publication of the editorial regarding the Canadian Mining Institute which appeared in *The Canadian Engineer* for August 22nd, 1918, officials of the Engineering Institute of Canada have assured Secretary Lamb, of the Mining Institute, that there is no ground for his fear that legislation sought by the Engineering Institute would put the Mining Institute "out of business."

In the month that elapsed between the publication of the August Bulletin and of the September Bulletin of the Mining Institute, Mr. Lamb apparently altered his views considerably, at least regarding the attitude of the Engineering Institute toward the Mining Institute. It is interesting to read what he published, as editor of the Bulletin, in his August issue, and then to read the following leading editorial, entitled "Legislation and Engineering," in his September issue, just published:—

"One of the questions considered at the professional meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada at Saskatoon, early in August, was the important one of the desirability of securing in the various provinces in the Dominion, the passage of legislation to govern the status of engineers in Canada.

"It may be admitted frankly that in certain quarters suspicions have been entertained that the Engineering Institute of Canada had ulterior motives in proposing the introduction of legislation of this character; that in short it had hegemonic aspirations which it hoped to satisfy by using the lever of legislation to force all engineers in Canada into its ranks under the threat that if they failed to come in they would be debarred from practising their profession. From the sentiments expressed by the executive officers and other leading members of the Society

at the Saskatoon meeting any suspicions of this kind may now be laid at rest. To be able to make this statement is eminently gratifying.

"Every member of the Institute will approve, without doubt, of the general proposition that legislation is needed for the better regulation of the practice of engineering in this country, with a view, not only to affording the engineer himself a greater measure of protection, but also for the protection of the public. The Engineering Institute of Canada has signified its intention to seek the co-operation of the Canadian Mining Institute in the carrying out of these proposals for the introduction of such legislation, the main object of which is to ensure that only properly qualified engineers shall be permitted to practice in the Dominion.

"The present evidence of goodwill on the part of the Engineering Institute of Canada will undoubtedly be appreciated by our members. Manifestly, it is to the common advantage that the relationship between the two societies should be of the most friendly and cordial nature. Such a spirit should be fostered. The activities of both societies are primarily inspired by disinterestedness, a desire to serve. This purpose can be accomplished in many directions most effectively by co-operative effort. In fact, never was the time more opportune than at present for the organization in Canada of the technical bodies for united endeavor for the advancement, not only of the special interests they represent, but for national service.

"In the United Engineering Society of New York we have an example of the splendid results that may be obtained through organization on these lines. Most fortunately, we have already in the Canadian Engineering Standards' Committee, recently established under the chairmanship of Sir John Kennedy, a national organization representing the various engineering interests and principal technical and industrial societies of the Dominion. While this committee was appointed to undertake a specific work, it is eminently qualified to serve the wider purposes and assume the more comprehensive duties of a Canadian Engineering Council; and to enable it to do so it is merely requisite to clothe it with the necessary authority and to change its designation.

"The establishment of a properly constituted Engineering Council to advance the engineering arts and sciences in all their branches, to co-ordinate the work of the societies it would represent for the promotion of the common good and for national service, is in the highest degree desirable—more, it is an imperative need."

CLOSING THE PROFESSION

IT can be taken for granted that steps will be taken soon—probably by joint action of the Engineering Institute of Canada and the Canadian Mining Institute—to secure legislation in the interest of the engineering profession. At the recent meeting at Saskatoon, and at the meeting of Toronto engineers held last April, the sentiment was almost unanimously in favor of such legislation being sought.

While the Engineering Institute of Canada will be the prime mover in securing such legislation, and rightly so, no institute should be the medium through which the law is put into actual effect. In *The Canadian Engineer* for April 25th, 1918, we commented upon Mr. C. E. W. Dodwell's assertions that membership in the Engineering Institute should be required as an indispensable condition