

tute delegates assured the minister of the entire sympathy and support of that body.

Previous delegations to Ottawa have not been uniformly successful. Lack of harmony and want of preparedness have usually marred their interviews. This last delegation, however, appears to have been excellently handled. Superfluous debate was avoided. The speakers confined themselves to the matter in hand. And the issue was in every way excellent.

To Mr. G. G. S. Lindsey, the chairman of the delegation, much praise is due. Mr. Lindsey's clear insight into the principles involved, and his grasp of business details are as valuable as they are unusual.

Before the Select Standing Committee, or its sub-committee, lies a large and urgent task. The support of the Canadian Mining Institute may be counted upon. Equally certain is the gratitude of all Canadian mining investors.

THE MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, held recently in Halifax, N.S., was remarkable in more than one respect. In the first place, several of the papers evoked an unusual amount of discussion and general interest. More than one of these will probably incite industrial development.

Particularly inspiring was the paper read by Dr. Heinrich Ries, of Cornell University. Dr. Ries outlined the possibilities of the clay industry in Nova Scotia, and gave specific information as to the extent and workability of the principal deposits. Quite as important was Dr. Ells' paper dealing with the commercial value of the oil shales of the Maritime Provinces, and Mr. Faribault's brief presentation of the geology and potentialities of the Moose River scheelite veins was most timely. Rarely have three such significant technical pronouncements been made at such a gathering.

Whilst the papers presented by local mining men were all meritorious, they do not demand especial notice here. We feel, however, that reference to the President's annual address is called for.

The key-note of Mr. Brown's address is contained in one sentence. "To my knowledge," he declared, "not one coal seam of commercial value has been discovered in Cape Breton, nor, indeed, with perhaps one exception, in the whole Province of Nova Scotia, since the year of Confederation." With this statement as a text, Mr. Brown dilated upon the earnest, careful, deliberate character that distinguished the labours and records of the colliery engineers of fifty years ago. Contrasting modern and past practice, he alluded to the intemperate haste, the incomplete records, and the consuming commercialism that are being developed. Briefly, but most pointedly, he indicated the wastefulness of present methods, and the surprisingly small advance that has been made in fuel economy, both as regards mining and power-generation.

While it is comparatively easy to pick flaws in Mr. Brown's statements, we believe that his logic is fundamentally sound. His address will be found on another page of the Canadian Mining Journal. It deserves careful perusal.

TOOL STEEL DIRECT FROM IRON ORE.

It should be a source of gratification to Canadians that a citizen of this country, Mr. J. W. Evans, of Belleville, has been the first investigator to succeed in producing high-class tool steel in an electric furnace direct from iron ore. Further, in his small furnace of 150 lb. capacity, Mr. Evans turned out his product at a cost of 9.6-10 cents per pound. The steel was tested at Hamilton and at McGill University, and was proved to be superior to standard brands. At Belleville, where the furnace is installed, electric energy costs \$50 per horsepower per year. The cost per pound mentioned above is based upon this rate for power, and includes all charges, such as depreciation, briquetting, etc., etc.

So far as we can learn, Mr. Evans is the only metallurgist to solve the problem of making tool steel direct from titaniferous iron ores in the electric furnace. This he first accomplished in 1906. Since then he has been perfecting his process, until now it appears to be commercially feasible.

As a mark of its sense of the value of Mr. Evans' work, the Canadian Mining Institute, during its recent annual meeting, passed the following resolution: "Resolved, that the Institute desires to express its appreciation of the results achieved by J. W. Evans in his electric furnace, and regrets that illness prevents his attendance at this meeting."

We need only add that Mr. Evans has never sought to advertise himself or his work.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Under the revised French tariff, it is proposed that certain asbestos goods are to be taxed as follows, per 100 kilos: Paper, 25 francs; cut up, other than rectangular, 50 francs; threads and cords, 60 francs; plaits and tissues (mixed or not), 75 francs. So far as Canada is concerned, the tariff on these articles will probably be modified by the application of the minimum tariff.

The fire that broke out in the Albion colliery, Stelarton, N.S., was fought and suppressed by ten men wearing Draeger breathing apparatus. These men had to be brought all the way from Glace Bay, Cape Breton. Without their aid, the loss would have been enormous. There could be no better illustration of the absolute necessity of establishing rescue stations at every Canadian coal mining centre.

The Western Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute, at a recent meeting, placed on record its high appreciation of the journalistic work done by Mr. E. Jacobs, of Victoria, B.C. The Canadian Mining Jour-