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THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

The large registration of members attending the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute, held at Montreal on March 3, 4, and 5, may be taken as evidence of the lively interest that is evoked by that fixture. Most satisfactory also was the evident attention with which the reading and discussion of papers were followed. Moreover, the three days of convention proved all too short, and many highly valuable papers had to be omitted from the programme.

On another page there appears an account of the proceedings. It is our intention here to consider briefly a few matters bearing upon the work of the Institute.

In one respect the meeting that has just been concluded was an improvement on all preceding conventions. We refer to the fact that the proceedings were much facilitated by the presentation of papers in synoptical form. This saved time and made fuller discussion possible. Undoubtedly steps can still be taken in this direction. For instance, an inflexible time limit could be fixed for the presentation of any paper. Subjects foreign to the matter in hand should be rigidly excluded. The diversity of interests represented by the membership of the Institute appears to demand some such regulation.

The custom of attaching consecutively numbered badges to all delegates has much to recommend it. An arrangement of this kind would obviate confusion and would provide an easy means of distinguishing members from non-members.

In making these and other suggestions we do not by any means intend to imply that the last meeting was not well managed. The opposite is the case. But so rapidly is the Institute expanding that it will soon become unwieldy unless all arrangements are systematized.

By far the most important result of the Institute's deliberations was the unanimous decision to urge upon the Federal and Provincial Governments the pressing need of a Royal Commission to take up the work of simplifying and co-ordinating existing mining legislation. It was pointed out that the Federal mining law is nebulous and irregular, both in respect to its text and its administration. Moreover, all the Provinces would gain prestige, commercially and politically, if the present provincial Acts were reduced to a common basis. Work of this nature requires the continuous attention of a select body of men for not months, but years. But, as one speaker pointed out, half a million dollars spent thus would be a mere bagatelle when compared with the enormous benefits that would accrue to the mining industry, and, through it, to the common-