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## THE MONTH.

If the report be true that the Dominion Government proposes to shortly create a Department of Mines at Ottawa, and appoint in connection therewith an expert mineralogical and metallurgical staff, the Canadian Mining Institute, which was first to urge the matter on the authorities, should receive the warm thanks of the mining communities upon this satisfactory result of its efforts, while the Provincial Mining Association, which also made a suggestion on similar lines, making it the subject of a special resolution, will have also cause for further congratulation. Heretofore it has been urged that there was little object in the establishment of a Federal Mining Department, as, the Yukon excepted, the Dominion could exercise no special jurisdiction in dealing with mining in the respective provinces. But this excuse is surely a very lame one, for if it applied there would equally be no justification for many of the other departments, such for instance, as that devoted to agriculture. By the establishment of a Dominion Department of Mines, British Columbia, as the most important of the mineral producing areas of Canada, would of course be the first to benefit largely.

As bearing upon the necessity for the establishment of a Federal Department of Mines the following statements and arguments of officers of the American Mining Congress, which through its predecessor, the International Mining Congress, originated the main movement in the United States for the establishment in that country of a National Department of Mines and Mining, are reproduced from a mining journal published in the United States. The officers mentioned propose, by the creation of such a department:

"To place the executive branch of our Government in close touch with the entire field of mineral production, just as it is now, through the Department of Agriculture, in close touch with the whole field of agricultural production.

"To utilize our consular service in foreign lands to assist in finding new and better markets for our mineral products, just as it is now utilized in enlarging the world market for the products of our agriculture.

"To establish experimental stations for expert investigation as to the best and cheapest methods of mining and treating the great variety of valuable ores which exist throughout our country, just as government experimental stations have been established for the benefit of agricultural interests.

To assist in removing, as far as possible, mining enterprises from the speculative basis which so often underlies them, by the systematic publication of scientific facts concerning the various mining districts of the United States.

"To assist in disseminating among mining prospectors the latest scientific information with reference to the different classes of mineral deposits and how to recognize them, just as the government, by its bulletins from the Department of Agriculture, disseminates the latest information among farmers.

"To assist in elevating the occupation of mining generally to the dignity of a scientific profession, by affording better educational facilities to those engaged in it, in the same way that the Department of Agriculture has done so much to lift agriculture from the ruts of chance, ignorance and tradition to the plane of an exact science.

"To assist in paving the way for national legislation, which shall give us more satisfactory mining laws, and thereby lessen the waste of time, energy and money which are now dissipated in mining litigation.