

In neither direction will there be serious overlapping of the field honorably occupied by the American Institute of Mining Engineers. In fact, to be useful at all, the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America must avoid duplicating the functions of its older sister. Another and less obvious danger lies in the abuses of power that characterize all close corporations.

Canadian mining men will watch with interest the growth of this fledgling. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to reflect that our own Canadian Mining Institute, whatever its deficiencies, has won its spurs. Its scope is wide enough, and its character sufficiently flexible to enable it to adjust itself to whatever contingencies arise. However, the time may soon be ripe for classification and segregation of its heterogeneous membership. When this is accomplished, Canadians will have the advantage of combining in one society all the advantageous features that mark its several sister organizations.

Editorial Notes.

The Mexican Mining Journal announces that Mr. Kirby Thomas, of Denver, Colo., for some years associate editor of the Mining World has taken full charge of the editorial management of the Journal. Mr. Thomas edited the two special Mexican editions of the Mining World. He is thoroughly familiar with Mexican mining and is well fitted to assume the editorship of our bright contemporary.

The Minister of Finance has given notice of a resolution that will have an important bearing upon the production of petroleum from bituminous shales. It is proposed to provide a bounty of one-half cent per imperial gallon on crude petroleum produced from shales or other substances mined in Canada. This places these products in the same category as petroleum obtained from flowing wells.

DISCOVERY BEFORE LOCATION.

Written for "The Canadian Mining Journal" by W.
Thos. Newman.

[Editor's Note.—The following typographical errors occurred in Dr. Raymond's article on the subject of "Discovery Before Location." We take this opportunity of making the necessary corrections, so that all ambiguity may be cleared away. Mr. Newman's contribution to the discussion presents a British Columbia point of view.

The errors referred to in Dr. Raymond's paper are:

1. First column of article, third line, the word "solid" should be "valid."
2. Same column, fifteenth line from bottom, the word "location" should be "locators."
3. Second column, third line from bottom of first paragraph, "land" should be "lands."
4. Second column, second line of second paragraph, "indefeasable" should be "indefeasible."
5. Second column, eighth line from bottom, "If he could sell it" should be "If he could not sell it."]

Answering your request for further discussion of the above subject, after reading Dr. Raymond's interesting paper in the last edition of the "Journal," I would remark:

The actual discovery of mineral of commercial value if properly conditioned should be the "sine qua non" of the granting to an individual a portion of the public domain, as it undoubtedly is the one and only inducement for the exploitation of the same and its conversion from a useless portion to one of both public and private value. This is I consider a demonstrable proposition, and therefore the "modus operandi" is the real question at issue. It is acknowledged by all of the men with whom my mining business in British Columbia brings me in contact, that British Columbia titles to lode mining ground are the best in their experience.

If the supreme test be that of validity then the very few law suits over titles in this province compared with other countries would seem good evidence of the fact. Clause "28" of the "Mineral Act" quoted below, may also be useful to any seeker after information on the subject of land titles. It is worthy of some thought and reads: "Upon any dispute as to the title of any mineral claim no irregularity happening previous to the date of record of the last certificate of work shall affect the title thereto, and it shall be assumed that up to that date the title to such claim was perfect, except upon suit by the Attorney-General based upon fraud." It is especially significant that there is no precedent for a suit by the Attorney-General under this clause. British Columbia mining titles are absolutely secure.

In, I think, 1898, the writer was on a committee appointed at the request of the Government to suggest any possible alterations to the Mineral Act, and one of the two or three ideas suggested bears very closely on the matter under review. This was "that all applicants for a record of a mineral location should be required to bring into the recorder's office two fair cabinet size samples of the mineral found at his discovery post and make affidavit that the samples were found 'in situ' at that point." One of these samples properly labelled was to remain in the local office and the other to be placed in the Museum at Victoria in the Department of Mines. It would seem that such provision should for all time settle the fact of actual discovery or non-discovery on such location. Also the Government would, as pointed out, in a few years have a collection costing nothing, every sample sworn to have come from a given location, and containing such a collection, as it would be impossible to get together in any other manner. Given the above addition to the present mode of staking mineral loca-