

In brief, the Hon. Dr. Young's scheme is comprehensive and effective.

British Columbia should be grateful to the gentlemen whose patriotic zeal has inspired this movement. Particularly are the disinterested efforts of McGill's representative, Dr. Porter, to be commended.

There has been adopted in Nova Scotia a systematic scheme of technical instruction. Ontario is awakening to the need of more complete arrangements for such education. The Federal Government is considering the advisability of appointing a commission to visit foreign countries and report upon their systems of trades schools and technical colleges. The technical colleges of the East are full to overflowing. Many of their best students come from British Columbia.

All of these considerations lend force to the conviction that no time could be more opportune than the present for the establishment of the proposed University of British Columbia.

Here we wish to make one urgent recommendation. If the proposed University is created, it will be wise for British Columbia to develop first the technical branches of instruction. The mining industry is the bone and sinew of the Province, and no truer way of insuring the wise development and conservation of her mineral resources can be devised than by that of training the sons of British Columbia in the sciences of mining engineering, metallurgy and geology. The arts and the humanities may come later.

Also it would be ungracious to refuse the proffered aid of McGill. The high traditions and standards of that University will be of tremendous assistance to the new and traditionless foundation.

It is our earnest hope that but a short time will elapse ere the University of British Columbia becomes an accomplished fact.

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

The tenth annual general meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute will be held at the Russell House, Ottawa, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 4th, 5th and 6th.

On Wednesday, March 5th, at 10 a.m., the proceedings will be opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, who has kindly consented to welcome and address the members. If necessary both the morning and afternoon sessions of Wednesday will be devoted to the transaction of business affairs. The Council's report will be read; the treasurer's statement received; and the changes in by-laws determined. At this session, also, the results of the election of officers and members of Council will be announced. On Wednesday evening and at the Thursday and Friday sessions, papers will be read. The annual dinner will be held on Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

GEOLOGY.

In a series of lectures in the course in Science, Philosophy and Art, delivered during the session 1907-1908 at Columbia University, Professor J. F. Kemp spoke on geology. His address is one of unusual excellence. Glancing briefly over the nebular hypothesis, he touches upon the alternative conception formulated by Professor T. C. Chamberlin, of Chicago, whose hypothesis is styled the "Planetesimal Hypothesis." Continuing his survey of the scope of geology, Professor Kemp alludes to a matter that is of signal interest to Canadians. He speaks in terms of high appreciation of the brilliant work of Dr. F. D. Adams, of McGill University, who, with the aid of elaborate and expensive apparatus, succeeded in demonstrating that, under proper conditions, marble could be made to flow like wax, under a strain far beyond the limit of its crushing resistance. Professor Kemp refers to the experiments now being carried on by Dr. Adams upon rocks such as granite, and under burial and metamorphism. "In so far as these have yet gone," writes Professor Kemp, "they are a striking corroboration of the conclusions reached by observers in the field, among whom Professor Adams also occupies a most honorable place."

THE CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER.

One of the best and clearest expositions of the functions of the consulting mining engineer appeared in a recent number of the *Engineer and Mining Journal*. The article referred to is reprinted on another page of THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL.

There are two principal causes of loss and waste in mining investments. The fever of a mining boom hatches a host of fakirs whose object is to milk small investors of sums insignificant in themselves but often aggregating hundreds of thousands of dollars. The success of these schemes depends upon the ignorance of those to whom the appeal is made.

The mining fakir is a serious, although a sporadic, source of loss. He hurts the industry directly and indirectly. To his operations, more than to aught else, may be ascribed the prevalent idea that mining is necessarily speculative.

The mining fakir flourishes because of the profound ignorance of the general public as to what mining means. He will disappear only when in the schools of Canada our children are taught something about our second greatest industry.

The other principal cause of waste and loss is well defined by our New York contemporary. The great losses of money in mining, it is pointed out, are due not so much to deliberately fraudulent schemes as to those innumerable "more or less honest, more or less misguided ventures that are not illegitimate but are entered into without competent engineering advice."