

You refer elsewhere in your article to an alleged struggle for ascendancy and control of affairs between contending factions in Ontario and Quebec. Allow me to assure you that in this, you exaggerate the situation out of all proportion, and the ballots cast at the last two annual meetings clearly show the unanimity of sentiment on all matters of real significance. But when you talk of "sectionalism and provincialism," and deplore that these should have been "substituted for the national spirit that alone can build up to great influence and material success any institution having more than local aims," I am quite sure that it did not occur to you for a moment that your own article bore the interpretation of the narrower point of view, and that you were making a direct appeal to the "provincial" spirit. What, you ask, is the Institute doing for British Columbia? Nothing more and nothing less than it is doing for Ontario or Quebec or Nova Scotia. Its efforts are being directed to promoting the welfare and interests of the mining industry of Canada, and that knows no Provincial boundaries. If, however, these efforts are being misdirected to the detriment of any section of the mining community, then your ground is well taken, but neglect has yet to be proved.

H. MORTIMER LAMB,

Secretary Canadian Mining Institute.

Montreal, Quebec, August 15, 1906.

We willingly publish the foregoing letter. In reply we state that we believe we are in a position to show (1) that, prior to the appointment of the present secretary, very important matters were disposed of without Western members of the council having been given a voice in their disposal, in one instance involving serious financial results without even a quorum of members present; (2) that there most assuredly was a determined struggle for "ascendancy and control" between "contending factions in Ontario and Quebec," whether the present secretary is in ignorance of this fact or not; and (3) that, as previously stated by us, "in the report of the annual meeting published in one of the most important mining journals of the world there was mention of progress in Quebec and Ontario, and of the prospects of the Yukon, but never a word concerning the fact that British Columbia last year made a record in mineral production and that its prospects for the current year are distinctly favourable to still further progress"; but since we have the secretary's assurance that the mining interests of Western Canada have latterly been, and are, receiving their due share of attention we are content to let the matter rest at that, our object being not to endeavour to discredit the Institute for the sake of doing so, but to stir the council up to following the excellent example set by the American Institute of Mining Engineers which, we still think, has of late years shown far more active sympathy with the mining interests of the Canadian Northwest than has the Canadian Mining Institute. We trust, though, that before the *Journal*

of the Institute for 1905 shall be printed some means will be devised for rectifying the omission of reference to British Columbia's considerable increase in mineral production in 1905, so that simple justice may thus be done this Province in that important publication.

There are several other points upon which we are not in agreement with the secretary's presentment of the case, but for a like reason to that already given shall abstain from going into them. We must, however, express our regret that the secretary should seem to have attributed intentional unfairness to us in the matter of the length of time the Institute has been in existence, since we only look for such imputations from those who are in the habit of misrepresenting whomsoever they criticise. We think it, to say the least of it, ungenerous, to suggest intentional unfairness on the part of the editor of the *B. C. MINING RECORD* when he made the simple mistake of regarding the Canadian Mining Institute as having been incorporated 18 years instead of eight. Nevertheless we heartily wish the secretary substantial success in his efforts to greatly extend the usefulness of the Institute and in particular in his attention to the Canadian West.—Editor *B. C. MINING RECORD*.

According to a Washington correspondent of the *London Critic*, the United States Mint authorities look for an enormous increase in Alaska's gold production in the next few years. Alaska, they say, has been merely scratched on the surface. With improved machinery and abundant capital to work the mines, the output can be made second only to the Rand. Apart from its extensive alluvial deposits, Alaska possesses numerous low-grade ore properties, which, as the Alaska-Treadwell shows, can be made to pay handsomely when worked on a large scale.

The Slough Creek Gravel Gold, Ltd., reorganised and registered in London, England, as the Slough Creek, Ltd., is employing 36 men (including 12 Chinese on the surface, underground men all being white) at its deep-drift mine on Slough Creek. The *Ashcroft Journal* states that progress in retimbering the drain tunnel through caved ground is slow, but this work is being pushed ahead steadily. In the main workings a south drift is being run from near the head of the first incline; on August 17 the drift had gravel in the roof, but no trouble from water or pressure had been experienced. The purpose of driving this drift is to draw more water and to determine whether the material decrease that has lately taken place in the flow of water underground may be regarded as indicating that the problem of draining the deep gravels so long grappled with, has at length been successfully solved, after several years' work towards this end. The mine shaft-house is being enlarged, to house two more steam boilers ordered. Other additional equipment being obtained includes an engine with 16 by 36-in. cylinders and a direct-acting hoist with 7-ft. drum.