

The Association is in no sense a political organization. It does not agitate for the making of laws. It only says to injudicious legislators, "Hands off!" and asks to be let alone. It seeks no subsidies or protection. The mining industry of Canada is the exemplar of the manly, independent enterprise that seeks no profit at the expense of adding burdens to its neighbor's back, but even bears the cost of the imposition of favors to others at its own expense and struggles on unaided only asking for a "fair field and no favor."

If mining is to succeed in Quebec it must be through the economies that are born of knowledge. While mineral wealth exists in abundance, it is so distributed that the discovery is rare of those bonanzas that may be recklessly exploited and yet yield rich returns. The best processes and cheapest methods must be adopted in order to secure enduring operations, and the mutual conference of those interested is the best means of disseminating information and stimulating improvement.

The pleasure arising from association with men of kindred pursuits adds to the profit gained from their ideas; and the "flow of soul" at the banquet that follows the "feast of reason" at the convention unites in friendship those whose interest as well as delight it should be to work in harmony.

It is to be hoped that all who are engaged in mining in this Province will become members of our Association in order to at once benefit by and aid in its efforts to secure freedom from oppressive laws, to increase knowledge of the art of mining, to spread information that shall add to the prosperity of the country and above all to promote that good fellowship which, amidst all the vagaries of mining luck, sustains the spirits and cultivates the charm of human sympathy.

ROBERT C. ADAMS,

*Vice-President.*

MONTREAL, 23rd December, 1893.