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LEGISLATURE NEEDS

The session at Ottawa is drawing to a close. Nothing has been done as regards mining legislation, nor is there much possibility that anything can be done this year. The Naval Bill has, of course, occupied almost completely the attention of the House. And this has been but one of the evidences of the costliness of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition. How far the blocking tactics may have been necessary from a political point of view is not for us to say. Yet we believe that we are expressing the view of the generality of Canadian citizens when we state that the whole naval incident, or series of incidents, has been nauseating. Not only has the proper administrative business of the country been relegated to the background, but a large number of urgent questions have been given no consideration whatsoever.

Some weeks ago we drew attention to the carelessness of the Dominion Government's attitude towards the mining industry. Let us here quote one paragraph from our published editorial:

"There has been ample mincing of words and phrases heretofore. The Canadian Mining Institute, through its delegations and at its meetings, has voiced the desire of the mining man for better treatment. Whilst its delegates have walked softly and talked politely, they cannot have failed to impress upon the Rt. Hon. Mr. Borden and his Ministers the fact that the Institute as a whole deplures and resents the futility of the past and present situations. Briefly, therefore, the treatment accorded the mining industry appears to be calmly deliberate."

As a corrective to this Governmental indifference we urged the organization of mining men into an organic entity that would count politically. The longer the present circumstances are permitted to exist, the more pronounced will the industry's grievance become. It matters not whether it be the Naval Bill, or any other disturbing factor, we are convinced that the Government will not give due consideration to mining affairs until it is forced to.

As a piece of constructive legislation there is nothing more needed than a uniform Canadian mining law. True, it will take much effort and much time to bring about a clear understanding between the various Provinces and the Dominion. The proposed law will be a process rather than an event. But it is high time that a start were made. We are losing prestige with every day of delay.

To bring the whole matter to a head, we would propose that the Canadian Mining Institute, the only or-