

It is not compatible with the dignity of the industry that its departmental head in Ottawa should be chosen for merely political reasons. He should be first and always a mining man. If such a person be not available in Parliament there is nothing to deter the Government from making a selection outside. This has been done in several notable instances, and never has there been better reason for repeating the step.

If the Institute seizes this chance of facing facts firmly it will have conferred a lasting benefit upon the nation.

At present the second largest industry of Canada is without representation in the House of Commons or in the Senate, and its ministerial administration is a negligible quantity.

## THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE ANNUAL MEETING

Owing to the fact that certain officials of the Geological Survey have conspired together to enliven the approaching annual meeting of the Institute at Ottawa, it may be readily believed that the visitors will suffer no boredom. The smoker and the dinner, which, after all, are the main features of the meeting, will be enlivened by flashes of geological wit, and by infusions of departmental humour.

The gathering is to be formally opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. Then will follow the regular routine of presenting Dominion and Provincial statistics, etc. Among the papers to be read during the afternoon session are several dealing with the mineral industries of the Ottawa district. These should be the most instructive. The evening session will be devoted to a lecture on Yukon Territory, by Dr. Henry M. Payne. Dr. Alfred M. Thompson, M.P., will occupy the chair and will also speak on the same subject. During the remaining session the papers read will be remarkably well chosen and varied. Speaking generally, they will be of much more practical interest than many of those presented on previous occasions. In fact, if we may judge by the titles, the Secretary is to be congratulated upon securing a fine list of subjects. Certain malign spirits will learn with joy that few geological essays are to be inflicted on unwilling ears. It is not known whether this is or is not a concession to stiff-necked Philistines.

We hope and believe that every attending member of the Institute will do what in him lies to contribute to the success of each and every session. Much earnest thought has been given to this meeting. It is very necessary that the attendance be as large as possible. It is equally necessary that the proceedings be as animated as they can be made.

Let us get together and see that a record attendance is assured, and that discussion never lags. We owe it to the officers of the Institute, to the Institute itself, and to our official hosts in Ottawa, to make a good showing.

## TWO NOTABLE PAPERS

Six times a year the American Academy of Political and Social Science publishes a substantial volume of essays covering a wide range of apposite subjects. The last volume is wholly devoted to things Canadian. Reciprocity is discussed by the Hon. Clifford Sifton—who probably knows what he is writing about better than most authorities. Canadian banking is tackled by Mr. H. M. P. Eckardt, who is, perhaps, a trifle fulsome in his appreciation of our lop-sided system. Mr. J. Castell Hopkins is equally appreciative of Canadian literature. He tabulates many of our ephemeral performers and is generously inclusive. An Englishman, Mr. W. A. Chapple, M.P., describes us as a hospitable and not unintelligent race, which, by the way, makes us feel deucedly cocky. Other writers discourse upon various other phases of our national life.

The two papers, however, that interest us most are from the pens of Dr. G. A. Young, of the Geological Survey, and Mr. J. M. Clark, K.C., of Toronto. Dr. Young writes on the hackneyed theme, "The Mineral Resources of Canada," and does so very creditably. Mr. Clark's paper is entitled, "Mining Legislation in Canada."

Writing for non-Canadian readers, Dr. Young naturally has to include in his essay much material that to our informed minds may appear trite and worn. In fact, we never have coveted the task of expatiating on this particular subject. But it is to Dr. Young's credit that he has been nimble enough to make his article clear, readable, and comprehensive. After tracing the phenomenal growth of Canada's mining industry and, by means of vivid comparisons, impressing its recent expansion strongly upon the reader, Dr. Young dwells upon the untouched regions of Canada. "In the imperfectly prospected and unprospected regions there is an almost unlimited area over which the geological conditions are similar to those of districts of known mineral wealth. The presence of like geological conditions implies the existence of like mineral deposits, for experience has demonstrated that the mineral deposits of any grown districts have resulted, directly or indirectly, from the action of the same general forces that gave rise to the broader geological structures and features of the region. Therefore, in order to indicate approximately only the probable extent and value of the mineral resources of a country, it is necessary to give at least a broadly generalized description of its geological features." This generalized description follows, and it is an excellent bird's-eye view of Canada's geological features. Each of the six great geological regions, or provinces, is described, and the characteristic deposits of each are mentioned. The essay concludes thus:—"Only in the comparatively limited area extending eastward from the St. Lawrence valley is the annual production in any way commensurate with the known mineral resources of the country. And even in this eastern region, the discoveries of late years have indicated the existence of previously unsuspected classes of mineral deposits. Over nearly the whole of the vast area of Canada the mineral