

harmony and good will. Occasionally, however, a complaint is heard emanating usually from younger members of the society, that the Council is not sufficiently liberal in its support of the local branches or sections. The majority of those present to-day will doubtless remember that the financial assistance to branches was a question thoroughly discussed at the annual meeting held in Montreal four years ago (1909). At that meeting it was definitely decided that it would be unwise to adopt a policy that would cripple the parent association, and might well lead to its bankruptcy. The present sound financial position of the Institute is due to the conservative policy that the Council has persistently followed. The enviable position which the Institute occupies is largely due, therefore, to the unselfish interest and willing devotion of its officers and individual members. As a matter of fact, the members whose admission to the Institute is recent, that is to say, within the last four or five years, get a great deal more by way of return for their annual subscriptions than did their seniors in point of membership. The Canadian Mining Institute at the present time gives in actual monetary equivalent at least as good a return to its members as does any similar society in the world, while in comparison with many this consideration is much greater. Only recently I had occasion to refer to some of the earlier volumes of the Journal embodying the transactions of the society, and any member who will do the same and will compare these earlier publications with the annual volumes now issuing, will be as agreeably impressed as I was with the extraordinary difference from every point of view. The first volume of the transactions published in 1898 contains 66 pages, inclusive of the papers, reports of the general meeting, annual meetings, constitution and by-laws, and list of members. The next three volumes never exceeded 350 pages and were similarly inclusive of all the activities of the society. Many of the papers then submitted and published would unquestionably be rejected by our present Publication Committee. Errors of statement as well as those of typography are noticeably frequent. In short, these earlier volumes, both as regards subject matter and manner of treatment are far from comparable with the Journals of the proceedings of the last few years, comprising as they do, volumes of 700 pages and upward of well written, carefully edited and adequately printed theses of a very high average quality.

With further reference to Branches, it may be affirmed that the Council appreciates the benefit accruing to the Institute as a whole from their establishment, and, if conditions permitted, would gladly contribute to their support. But as this is not at present possible, it is necessary that the officers of the respective Branches should encourage among their members that same spirit of unselfishness which has ever characterized the Institute. If such an attitude be maintained and strengthened, the sphere of influence of the Institute will indeed be extended.

As has been well said by a former President, the Canadian Mining Institute represents an industry, not a profession. With this fact before us, and remembering the necessarily more open membership qualification, there is evidently necessary a much greater degree of that esprit de corps which contributes so largely to the success even of those exclusive professional associations. Apropos of the increase of membership it is gratifying to note that last year constituted a record, the accessions representing no less than 197. The total membership at the end of February (1913) was 1,052, classified as follows:

**MEMBERSHIP.**

	Dec. 31, 1912.	Elected in 1913.	Resignations.	1913.
Patrons . . . . .	5	..	..	5
Honorary . . . . .	3	..	..	3
Corresponding . . . . .	13	3	..	18
Ex-Officio . . . . .	31	..	..	31
Members . . . . .	737	22	5	754
Associates . . . . .	125	3	5	123
Life . . . . .	8	..	..	8
Students . . . . .	15	..	..	15
Affiliated . . . . .	97	..	..	97
	<hr/> 1,034	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 1,052

To the Past-Presidents and Council of the Institute I desire to express my hearty appreciation and thanks for their earnest co-operation and unity of purpose, without which the present eminently satisfactory condition in the affairs of the Institute would have been impossible.

**THE NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF MINING.**

The subject of my Presidential address, a subject of great interest, no doubt, to all members of the Canadian Mining Institute as well as to the general public, is "The National Importance of Mining." The title is by no means new or original, for under this same caption in 1902 one of our Past Presidents, Mr. John E. Hardman, presented a paper which, as he explained, he chose rather than the more specific title of "Government Aid to Mining," for the reason that he wished to emphasize the duty of the nation rather than the duty of the provinces to encourage an industry which has grown to be of such great importance to the Dominion. Mr. Hardman, assuming "that the national importance to which the industry of mining has attained, is axiomatic, proceeds to discuss how the Federal Government can best assist and promote such an industry, not only to greater dimensions, but also to greater perfection, while still preserving and maintaining fidelity to that branch of the British North America Act by which the control and administration of minerals found within the borders of any particular province was vested in that province." This paper and the discussion following, which was shared by many mining men of prominence in Canada, afforded much necessary information and opinion on this even now timely subject. Our Secretary, Mr. H. Mortimer-Lamb, at this meeting, taking as his text, "State Aid to Mining in Australasia," will present some analogies and conclusions as to governmental assistance to the mining industry.

In this address, however, I do not propose to consider this aspect of the question, but simply to present in facts and inferences regarding the growth and relative importance of mining in Canada, especially in comparison with other industries that depend directly on the exploration and utilization of our natural resources. Minerals, in the widest acceptation of the term, are the basis of the business of mining. They are used either directly or indirectly in every branch of industry, so that it may fairly be said that the measure of a