

On the other hand the Canadian Survey has seized with avidity any evidence of fossil-bearing strata in British Columbia and has in all cases dispatched paleontologists to hunt and collect over promising ground.

Mr. Evans aspersion on the "Colonial" (meaning "Canadian") Government is torrid atmosphere. The Canadian Geological Survey should, doubtless, be more liberally supported.

But, in proportion to their respective mineral industries, Canada appropriates just three times as much money as does the United States. Moreover, although working on a smaller scale, the Canadian Geological Survey has done incomparably more towards the correlation of international and western strata than has the United States Survey with its large staff and its heavy appropriations. Mr. Evans can hardly ask for more than this. Meanwhile we must thank him for giving us an opportunity to blow our own "National" horn.

DISCOVERY BEFORE LOCATION.

Dr. Raymond's vigorous article in our issue of June 15th has evoked much comment. On another page we print a communication from Mr. W. T. Newman, who concurs almost wholly with Dr. Raymond's position. Mr. Newman condemns the Ontario system of claim inspection as being apt to "lead to grave abuse" and as "an interference of a paternal nature with the search by the public for mineral wealth." He concludes that the vital point is uniformity—one law applying equally to all locations and covering essential revenue and a definite amount of actual exploratory work to be performed annually. Beyond that Mr. Newman's only plea is "let us alone."

It will be appropriate now to hear some voices from Cobalt and beyond. We shall welcome letters from our readers in the bush—from the men who are "up against it."

STANDARDIZATION.

A month ago we reprinted, for the benefit of our readers, the question-forms circulated by the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy. We have been encouraged by a letter from the Secretary of the Institution to urge Canadian mining men to submit answers to these questions.

We wish again to request that our readers go carefully over these schedules and send us their opinions for publication. In our next issue we shall publish one set of answers already received.

Standardization is a particularly live and important topic, and it is both courteous and liberal on the part of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy to offer non-members an opportunity of expressing their opinions.

THE MINING AND METALLURGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

As the result of vigorous canvassing, discussion and argument, the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America has been launched. Amongst its 114 charter members are many of the most distinguished engineers, metallurgists and geologists on the continent. On the printed list only two Canadian names appear, and these are the only foreign addresses included. Hence the new society is hardly cosmopolitan in its present scope.

That useful body, the American Institute of Mining Engineers, has long been regarded as meeting all the requirements of the mining fraternity. But it has been recognized that the Institute is incapable of performing certain necessary functions. For instance, it cannot take any part in watching and controlling legislation. Nor does membership imply technical attainments or professional standing. But the American Institute of Mining Engineers has exercised a wholesome and uplifting influence upon the mining fraternity of its own and other countries.

Yet more remains to be done. The Mining and Metallurgical Society of America is a strictly professional society. Membership in it is limited to the ranks of the mining and metallurgical engineers, and mining geologists. Whilst a high standard of professional ability and personal character will be insisted upon, yet membership is understood not to be an unqualified endorsement.

One proposal is to print brief records of the professional careers of each member. This thoroughly radical step will no doubt have a beneficent effect.

The five principal fields of activity are briefly as follows:

1. The establishment of local sections, meeting probably once a month, to promote good-fellowship among the members and to exchange views respecting technical and professional matters.
2. The determination of standards in engineering practice, such as is being done by the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy. This is considered a most profitable field of work.
3. The discussion of questions relating to professional practice and ethics, with a view to the gradual formulation of rules for guidance, determined by the concensus of opinion in the Society.
4. The discussion of questions of public policy in which the profession of mining engineering is directly concerned.
5. It is intended that the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America shall be a strictly professional society, etc., etc. This section we have touched upon already.

It will be in the directions defined in sections 3, and 4, that the distinctive work of the new society will lie.