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THE MONTH.

One of the most important recommendations made to the Government by the Provincial Mining Association at the convention in February last, was to the effect that the Acts relating to quartz and placer mining should be carefully revised and consolidated, with a view to their simplification and for the removal of the numerous anomalies and instances of ambiguity of language now existing. As it is likely that, following the elections next month, the House will be called together shortly thereafter it is to be hoped that this is one of the matters that will receive early attention. The Association has suggested several important and radical amendments to the present law, and the time should therefore be opportune for these to be carefully considered and the Acts revised, so that for a period at least the "continual tinkering" of which complaint has been justly made may be rendered unnecessary. But this is, though a sufficient, by no means the sole reason why a careful revision of the mining law is required. To the layman the Acts as they now stand on the Statute Books may appear reasonably plain and intelligible, but those to whom law is a profession and who are therefore in a position to form correct conclusions from their own experiences, are perfectly

well aware that the Mineral Act in particular is full of pitfalls for the unwary and is responsible for as much litigation as it is possible for an Act of Parliament to be. The question is how a satisfactory revision might best be made, for a revision that was not perfect would, of course, be to make confusion worse confounded. It appears to us that the only safe and sensible procedure to adopt would be the appointment of a commission to whom not only the revision of the Acts might be entrusted, but also for the hearing of evidence in proof or otherwise of the necessity for and wisdom of the numerous reforms and amendments which the Mining Association as an organization representative of the industry, as well as private individuals have from time to time recommended to the attention of Provincial administrations. No one for a moment can question the great work accomplished by the Mining Association or doubt its disinterestedness or its representative character; but it must be recognized that some antagonism was created in certain sections of the country in consequence of certain comprehensive recommendations made by the Association in convention, which it was claimed did not meet with the views or wishes of a large class, who are certainly entitled to be heard. Moreover, such objection might and would very properly be used by the member or members of the Legislature representing such constituencies as strong reasons for opposing the passage of legislation on the lines suggested. Then, too, it was urged reasonably enough that it was impossible in the short space of time the Mining Convention was in session for the many matters there brought up for discussion to receive such consideration as in some cases their importance, involving a question of radical amendments and changes in mining law and policy, would warrant. But by the appointment of a commission, including, say, a judge of the Supreme Court, and of practical men representing the different branches of the mining industry, to investigate conditions and requirements, obtain all possible information on the subject of the proposed reforms, and gain some idea of the preponderance of sentiment, in the mining districts affected, the Legislature would then have no difficulty in arriving at correct conclusions and no excuse for refusing to carry out the clearly expressed wishes of the mining communities.