

# Annual Meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute

Twenty-Second Annual General Meeting, Toronto, March 8th-10th, 1920

(Reported by the Editor.)

## A Joyous Meeting.

Three things helped to make the Toronto Meeting a happy one, namely; the efficient spade-work of the Local Committee in preparation for the meeting and the entertainments; the presence and active participation in the meeting of a large number of members returned from the war; and the special care taken to ensure the presence and comfort of the ladies. The combination of these circumstances, with others that might be named, gave to the meeting from the first a keenness and elation that redeemed it from stodginess, and sustained the interest throughout an unusually full programme of work.

The reception of the Institute by the City of Toronto was most courteous and hospitable. The Institute was invited to luncheon by the Mayor and Civic Corporation, a mark of honour that has rarely, if ever before, been shown to it, and one which the retiring President, in thanking the Mayor and the City, accepted on behalf of the mining industry of the country as a recognition of the influential and representative position now generally accorded to the Canadian Mining Institute. The compliment paid to the Institute was not less marked than the appreciation it evoked from the members in attendance.

The Government of Ontario also, by the presence of Lieutenant-Governor at the Annual Dinner, and by the attendance of the Minister of Mines both at the opening session, and at the dinner, conferred distinction upon the Toronto meeting.

In addition, the most generous assistance was given by the Mines Department of the Province both before and throughout the course of the Meeting.

The sessions were so full, and the various events of the Meeting followed in such quick succession that the visitors did not see much of the city itself, but in no place has the Institute been more signally honored at its Annual Meeting than in Toronto.

## OPENING SESSION, MONDAY 8th.

### Address of the Minister of Mines.

The Minister of Mines, the Hon. H. Mills, welcomed the members as coming from the West and the East and as representing every province of Canada, and said he appreciated the honor conferred upon him by the Toronto Branch in recently electing him as an honorary member of the Institute. During the few weeks he had held office, Mr. Mills said he had been filled up with advice, so varied and extensive that he had decided it was safer during the coming session of the House to follow certain narrow trails. He had hoped to make changes in the Mines Act. The Act was, he believed, a good one, but not so good that it could not be bettered, and in detailing briefly what he hoped to accomplish during the Session, Mr. Mills said:

The prospector is responsible for the pioneer work of mining development. He is to the mining industry what the settler is to the farming industry, and should be encouraged in every possible way. The prospector does not know all about the game yet. He has a lot to learn.

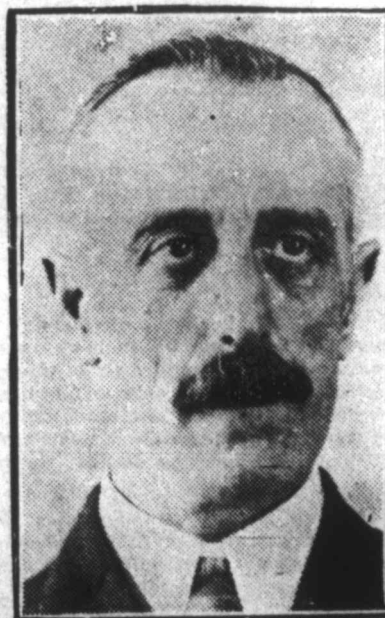
Valuable claims have been passed over by prospectors in the past because of the lack of proper information on the part of the prospector. The education of the prospector would be a step in the right direction, and the Government proposed to institute evening classes for prospectors in the various camps next winter. The provision of up-to-date geological maps and blue-prints of districts and mineral zones would be undertaken, and an office was to be opened at North Bay, for the preparation and issuance of such information to prospectors at cost.

The Government intended to assist in making trails and opening roads, and had included ten thousand dollars in the estimates for opening streams and trails and anticipated a large return on this investment.

Assistance would also be given to the prospector by reducing the license fee from \$10.00 to \$5.00. Requests had been made for even greater reductions, and a fee as low as \$1.50 had been suggested. It was possible that some people would accept a free license. Staking would be limited to three claims per man and three claims for two other parties, that is nine claims in all. Some persons may consider this limitation objectionable, but in the past too much land had been given away. One claim covered 6,400 acres, and another 9,300 acres. Would venture to say that not more than one per cent of the claims are developed. It is the development and not the granting of claims that is of interest to the Government.

The Government proposed to assist by granting free assays, for which two coupons would be issued to each person, covering gold, lead, silver and copper. The Department was considering enlargement of the Toronto Assay Office and extending operations to Cobalt. Two assays would be allowed for each recorded claim. In the matter of licenses, the Government hoped to encourage the small prospector, and make things more equitable without reducing its own revenue by charging a \$5.00 license fee to the actual prospector, and \$15.00 for the licenses taken out by proxy.

Requests had been received from the Great War Veterans Association, in its various centres, for everything. Fifteen



HON. H. MILLS.  
Minister of Mines, Ontario.