

The annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute has again drawn public attention to the importance of such gatherings, especially to parts of the Dominion favoured with large mineral resources. The deliberations of a number of specialists on subjects connected with the development and utilization of the great natural wealth contained in large areas of mineral lands of the Dominion should be of far more general public interest than they are at present, and it is gratifying to find that to an increasing degree this is being recognized. The members of the Institute certainly cannot complain of indifference or lack of courtesy on the part of those prominently connected with the Department of Mines of Ontario. The Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province accepted an invitation to be present and address the convention. In the course of his remarks he expressed the pleasure it gave him to meet such a representative body of members of a profession with which a branch of his department was so nearly concerned. He acknowledged the value of many of the suggestions and recommendations of the Institute, pointed out wherein he had endeavoured to meet their views, and assured them of his willingness to give all possible assistance to the mining interests of the Province. It was evident that his was more than a passive interest, for had he been simply giving those he addressed "the glad hand," with no sincerity behind his professions, it is unlikely that officials of the Mines Department would have been taking the active part they were in promoting the objects of the convention. The Director of the Ontario Bureau of Mines gave the convention much practical information, showing the progress of mining and the manufacture of the products of mining in the province during 1903, and the Provincial Geologist dealt at considerable length with the undeveloped mineral resources of Ontario. It may be that this good example will yet be followed in British Columbia, even at gatherings where those taking part are not all professional men. Let us hope that next year will see in this province a similar display of tactful courtesy and cordial co-operation, prompted by real recognition of the value of the service that is being rendered to the mining industry by the Provincial Mining Association.

The address of the managing director of the Le Roi Mining Company (Mr. Anthony J. McMillan, of Rossland,) to the shareholders assembled in general meeting in London a few weeks ago should assist in restoring confidence in the Le Roi. At considerable length he dealt with the affairs of the company's mine and smelter, and at the close of his address, which was listened to with close attention, he reiterated his belief, first expressed to the shareholders in general meeting nearly two years since, that the Le Roi is a great mine. Further, after showing that profits on ore extracted had freed the property from debt, he gave it as his judgment that the mine is in a better position to-day in every respect than it has been for years past. True, there are the three great

problems he called attention to, viz., how to get more ore, how to get cheaper coke, and how best to deal with the low grade ores of the Le Roi mine, awaiting solution, but the first and last seem now to be in the way of being solved ere long, whilst the remaining one will in all probability appear less formidable as competing collieries and railways become established and do away with existing practical monopolies. With a thoroughly business-like directorate, an able and conservative general manager, the smelter under a skilled modern metallurgist, the office under fully competent supervision, and the mine as good as, or even better than Mr. McMillan indicated, the Le Roi Company should yet prove a success in very deed.

At the same meeting Mr. Geo. S. Waterlow said: "I believe it has been stated by those who know very little about British Columbia that very little real values are turned out in that country; but the contents of the matte shipments of your mine alone for the year under review, as per refinery returns, have been absolutely 91,037 oz. gold, 122,447 oz. silver, and 4,816,155 lb. copper. I think that these figures alone will show that there is something in the Le Roi mine, and, I have hopes, a great deal more yet." This kind of testimony must eventually benefit British Columbia, especially when attention is directed to such facts by one who has expended money freely in mining properties in the Province, and has made repeated visits to the mines in which he is consequently deeply interested. Had the figures been available to him at the time, Mr. Waterlow might have gone farther and told his hearers that the total production of metals by the Kootenay and Boundary smelters in 1903 added to that of the Le Roi mine as above was as follows: Gold, 216,614 oz.; silver, 2,866,816 oz.; copper, 24,541,535 lb., and lead, 16,779,182 lb. Even these figures, convincing as they should be, do not do the Kootenay and Boundary districts full justice, for there were besides the metal contents of a lot of Rossland ore, not included in the foregoing statement, smelted at Northport, Washington, and silver-lead ores from the Slocan also shipped to United States smelters. Then there was the production of other parts of the Province, including a considerable tonnage of ore smelted at Vancouver Island smelters, so that, comparatively speaking, there was quite a large aggregate production to disprove any such statement as that so opportunely corrected by Mr. Waterlow.

Had it been suggested two or three years ago that Boundary district smelters, established at points distant 100 to 120 miles by rail from Rossland, would compete with the near-by smelters at Trail and Northport for ores produced by Rossland mines, the suggestion would probably have been ridiculed. Yet today we find the managing director of the company owning the Northport smelter admitting that this competition has to be met, and that consequently his company is face to face with new conditions. The