

prevented Mr. Evans from being present. Dr. Stansfield is himself an authority on electrometallurgy. Hence the fact that Mr. Evans' results appeal to him is encouraging. We proffer our sincere congratulations to Mr. Evans.

All of the papers read by the visitors from the United States are eminently worthy of mention. Space will not permit this. But we cannot refrain from dwelling upon the addresses of Professor R. H. Richards and Dr. James Douglas. Professor Richards held his audience for a whole morning session. He gave us a glimpse of the means and methods that he has employed in searching out the whole philosophy of ore-dressing. Dr. Douglas spoke of his own early and unsuccessful attempts to mine copper in Quebec. To both of these gentlemen, as indeed to all the other visitors, the Institute should be specially grateful.

The business sessions were heated. The proposed by-laws were murdered—and without anesthetics. It is a matter of regret that the discussion became vitriolic. This is totally unnecessary. However, it is not likely that any further attempt will be made to limit the membership of the Institute. The consensus of opinion appeared to be that, within decent limits, the doors should be wide open.

The proposed Nominating Committee also fell by the wayside. Here again the discussion was one-sided and quite insufficient. We must confess to a good deal of sympathy for those gentlemen who spent time and thought upon the proposed amendments. The reception offered them was scarcely courteous.

The smoker, under the capable guidance of Mr. G. S. Lindsey, assisted by Mr. W. E. H. Carter, was a howling success. The dinner, likewise, was a well-managed and pleasant event.

Glancing back over the three days, we see little to criticise and much to praise. We still believe, however, that discussions should be organized carefully before the reading of each paper, and that, except in extraordinary circumstances, papers should be presented in synoptical form. Sooner or later, of course, the Institute will be forced to resolve itself into sections so as to permit of the simultaneous reading of papers on diverse subjects.

To the president, to the committees, and especially to Secretary Lamb and Treasurer Lecky, we proffer our felicitations upon having arranged and carried out so smoothly the best series of meetings of the Canadian Mining Institute on record.

THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

The Government of Nova Scotia has given much evidence of an enlightened desire to encourage trade

and industry. Some time ago it framed enactments for the furthering of gold mining by means of specific cash subsidies. Latterly, under the guidance of Dr. B. E. Fernow, an inventory has been made of the province's timber resources, with a view to conservation and reforestation.

One of the most significant acts of the Government, however, was the appointment of a commission to report upon labour conditions and upon the practicability of an eight-hour day. The commission's report is reproduced in part on another page. The section referring to coal mining, and this more directly concerns us, while not remarkably explicit, is sufficiently definitive to provide much food for thought.

While the commission recommends reduction in the hours of employment in certain classes, it pronounces strongly against a general and compulsory eight-hour law. This, the report declares, "would be at present a fatal blow to the industrial prospects of Nova Scotia. . . . So far as coal mining is concerned, the commission would gladly report in favour of the shorter day if the facts permitted them to do so. But the existing market for Nova Scotia coal presents features of a grave character. The coal industry is fundamental to the welfare of the province, and before enacting legislation that would undoubtedly add to the cost of operating the mines, or seriously reduce wages, further consideration should be given to the features referred to."

We have no reason to think that the commission was in the least degree partizan. The members were independent citizens, chosen because of their fitness. Hence the report cannot be regarded lightly. Thus, also, it is gratifying to place on record the implied fact that, in comparison with clerks, shop-keepers, factory-hands and others, the coal miner of Nova Scotia secures better treatment from his employer. This is something to be taken to heart by our legislators. The eight-hour agitation will crop up constantly. Eventually it will become an accomplished fact. But it is the duty of our governments to see that the currents of our commercial life are not too rudely disturbed by premature concessions to agitators.

PROSPECTING IN ONTARIO.

The bona-fide and efficient prospector has always our admiration and support. Unfortunately, in the rush to stake something, many hundreds of inexperienced men have been sent north. Either through ignorance or through laziness, these men waste the season by loitering around established camps, or by following the beaten trail and the easy water route.

Mr. W. M. Goodwin's article, "Notes on Prospecting in Ontario," sets forth these and other truths, and, further, supplies timely hints to the novice.