

The collection of mining statistics is, in itself, beset with many complications and hindrances. There is no law compelling mining or smelting companies to make sworn returns to the statistician of the Federal Department of Mines and that official must rely upon the courtesy of his correspondents.

Operators are under legal obligation, however, to furnish all necessary returns to provincial authorities. At first glance it might be concluded that this is sufficient for all purposes. Such, however, is far from being the case.

For instance, each province has its own method of computing the value of mineral outputs and each differs from the plan followed at Ottawa. Moreover the schedule of questions varies in each case. To add to the difficulties that confound the Dominion statistician, whose task of co-ordinating and standardizing would be a heavy one at best, provincial returns are further complicated by the fact that the official year is not identical in each province. Hence, complete returns are obtained only with disproportionate labor and worry.

The desirability of establishing uniform systems both of evaluation of raw materials, and intermediate and finished products, and also of an agreement whereby throughout the several provinces and at Ottawa, returns may be had in their entirety at the end of the calendar year, needs no argument. At present the apparent discrepancies between provincial and federal statistics is a source of confusion. The Canadian Mining Institute has taken the matter up. It has recommended "that a conference be arranged between the Deputy Minister of Mines and the Deputy Ministers of the Provincial Bureaus to devise, if possible, an uniform method of compiling statistics and valuing mineral products."

The matter must not rest here. By passing the above resolution the Institute recognized officially the need of reform. It has put its hand to the plow and there will be loss of dignity and prestige in failure to carry the movement to a successful conclusion.

Another subject, quite different in its bearing from that touched on above, but of at least equal interest, was brought before the Institute by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell. Mr. Tyrrell's resolution, seconded by Dr. T. L. Walker, read as follows: "Resolved—that the Canadian Mining Institute ask the various railways in Canada to issue tickets to prospectors at reduced rates, similar to the tickets now sold to home seekers; the records of such tickets to be endorsed on the Miners' Licenses held by such prospectors." This met the full and hearty approval of the Institute and was passed unanimously. It is a well-conceived and practical means of assisting prospectors, and, hence, a definite step towards opening up new mineral territory.

It is not easy to conceive of two more useful directions of activity for the Canadian Mining Institute than

those outlined. Why then is no further action being taken? If the Institute is to fulfil its high mission, if it is to justify the liberal assistance heretofore granted it by Federal and Provincial Governments, it must accomplish more than mere resolutions. To this end active committees are needed to co-operate with the secretary and council. And, were the members of these committees selected carefully, we have no doubt that the objects of both resolutions would be attained in a surprisingly short time.

#### CORRELATION OF INTERNATIONAL STRATA.

Mr. Horace F. Evans has recently contributed two articles to the Mining World of Chicago, on the subject of the correlation of international strata. Mr. Evans' treatment of his theme is popular. He sketches the work performed by the International Committee and assumes a judicial attitude in summing up results. By implication and by direct statement he asserts that the Canadian Geological Survey has neglected paleontologic investigation of the older strata of Southern British Columbia. The prediction is made that "exact correlations" of these strata will be accomplished by United States geologists in Northern Washington. "The paleontologist and the paleobotanist cannot expect to find much favor with colonial governments that have 'millions for tribute' but only a few thousands for economic science!"

It is evident from all this (and more that we have neither the time nor the patience to quote) that Mr. Evans has failed to fortify himself with facts. Nor is he conversant with the range and the character of the labors of the Canadian Survey.

The distinguished heads of the Canadian Survey had clear and correct conceptions of correlation. At present the Survey is co-operating with the United States geologists. In British Columbia work was begun long before that country was penetrated by a railway. Ever since that time paleontologic research has been carried on and each year has seen an increasing volume performed.

Dr. Dawson's first efforts were entirely confined to reconnaissance. He then chose certain districts for detailed examination. Where fossils were found successful correlation resulted. In disturbed regions, where the search for fossils was unsuccessful, final correlation was naturally impossible.

Of late the Survey has paid especial attention to the mining districts. Organic remains are not found here. But the investigation of the geologic phenomena of these regions is of prime importance to the province. No one, for instance, can deny the benefits accruing to the mining industry from the Survey's efforts in the Boundary district. But, since fossils are not to be found, why send a paleontologist to search for them? Mr. Evans' position is not sweetly reasonable.