

Germans. In Spain, Brazil and South Africa as well railroad electrification is under active consideration.

It is evident, therefore, that the next decade will see a large amount of railroad electrification in almost every quarter of the world.

MEETING OF TORONTO BRANCH OF CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

New Provincial Minister of Mines Addresses Institute Members.

Reports from Toronto of the meeting and dinner of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute on Saturday, at which Minister of Mines Mills and Attorney-General Ramsey were the specially invited guests, were reassuring to representatives of the mineral industries of Ontario. The new ministers, while not obligating themselves to do other than deal fairly with all classes and industries, proclaimed their purpose to promote economics and encourage capital.

Mutual felicitations and pledges of co-operations were exchanged. President Tyrrell voicing the sentiments of the mining fraternity, and Minister Mills frankly admitting his earnest desire to have Ontario in general and the Fort William district in particular retain the premier position. In so doing the Minister of Mines reviewed the out putting statistics of the current year and manifested a knowledge of the situation that evoked applause. He argued for increased production while humorously declaring that "it is a long way from the 'cab' to the cabinet," he being a locomotive engineer.

Professor Miller was most optimistic as to the future of North Country and ventured the projection that "there are more Cobalts and more Porcupines." He also directed attention to the fact that the nickel industry despite its adversities in the earlier years of its development, is the greatest of its kind and merited pride as such.

Messrs. Tyrrell and Haultain complimented the Ministers upon their plain-speaking. Among the business transacted was the election of Mr. Clifford E. Smith to the presidency of the Toronto branch, and the decision to invite the Canadian Mining Institute to hold its next annual meeting in Toronto.

"A SCHOOL REUNION."

Toike-Oike.

A reunion of the graduates of the School of Science and of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering is to be held in Toronto on the 12th and 13th of December. This reunion has aroused a great deal of interest among the alumni all over Ontario and at more distant points, and advanced indications are that almost all good school men will be on hand. A live program is being prepared to cover the Friday evening and all of the Saturday. Special railway rates are being secured from all points in Canada.

It is considered desirable to gather the alumni of the old school together at this time to renew the friendship and acquaintances of "Varsity" days upon which time the war has made great inroads. It is essential that any university or college that desires to stand in the front ranks of educational institutions should have a strong, active alumni, and this reunion is planned with a view to consolidating the existing

wealth of school spirit into an organization of that kind.

The alumni will be pleased to welcome the new dean, and to hear from him his hopes and his ideas for the future conduct of the school.

The move for a reunion has been most enthusiastically received wherever broached and the committee is endeavoring to get in touch with all graduates, but as the present list of addresses is very incomplete, they are unable to reach all of the graduates and will be pleased to send full details of the program to any alumnus on request to Mr. Joseph Bannigan, 7 King St., East, Toronto, Ontario.

NICKEL COINAGE ADVOCATED IN CANADA.

It must always remain a puzzle why Canada, the world's main producer of nickel, yet neglects to utilize the metal for coinage. If only for sentimental purposes, the official use in this way of such a typically Canadian metal as nickel would be most appropriate. But quite apart from that, it would be good business, for by the introduction of nickel 5-cent pieces, and for that matter also 10-cent pieces, in place of the present silver coins, the national treasury would effect a very considerable saving, certainly amounting to two or three hundred thousand dollars annually at the present high price of silver. Then again there are a variety of purposes, such as for cooking utensils, for which nickel and its alloys, notably Monel metal, are eminently suitable, not merely as a substitute for other metals, but owing to superior wearing qualities, cleanliness, and generally more "finished" appearance. These features would go far to outweigh the somewhat higher initial cost, and owing to its longer life the nickel article would probably be found to be little or no more expensive in the long run. We need an active campaign to popularise the use of nickel and its alloys, and this is especially true now that the refining of nickel has taken its place as a firmly established home industry.—Canadian Mining Institute Bulletin.

A SILVER PROPHECY.

In view of the record figure to which the price of silver has recently risen it is of interest to recall that an era of permanently dearer silver was predicted in a work on "Peace Problems in Economics and Finance," of which a second edition was published in February, 1918. In his preface to that edition the author, Mr. Uriel d'Acosta, declared that "the era of cheap silver, which has lasted about thirty years, has come to an end," and that "a permanently higher value for the metal has been established." The change in the value of the white metal, he contended, was the consequence of the impoverishment of the West and the greater prosperity of the East. Gresham's law, he added, applies itself to the whole of Western civilisation in driving silver to the East as a result of inflated paper currencies. In view of the European demand for silver for currency purposes and for the industrial arts it was hardly likely, in Mr. D'Acosta's opinion, that the value of silver will for many years to come be much less than it was in 1913. These prophecies, we think, form a rather striking example of what Lord Curzon once described as intelligent anticipation of events before they occur.

—Financier and Bullionist.