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THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

THREE councillors of the Canadian Mining Institute, and also three other members of that Institute, have written letters to the editor of the Institute's "Bulletin," criticizing the editorial in "The Canadian Mining Journal" for November 1st and the editorial in *The Canadian Engineer* for November 7th. Both of these editorials dealt with the status of the Canadian Mining Institute.

With the criticism of "The Canadian Mining Journal," we are naturally not concerned; but in regard to the editorial in our own paper, we would most respectfully point out to these six members of the Canadian Mining Institute that there was not and is not the slightest desire or intention on the part of this paper to say anything derogatory about the Canadian Mining Institute.

To the contrary, *The Canadian Engineer* has always had a very high respect for the work of the Canadian Mining Institute, and that respect has received expression in these columns upon frequent occasions.

It is quite evident that some of these six men had not read the editorial in *The Canadian Engineer* for November 7th with any great amount of care, as some of the letters attribute to that editorial, statements that did not appear at all in the editorial, and they also make an effort to read into the editorial, intimations and motives that were entirely lacking.

The whole *raison d'etre* of the editorial on the Canadian Mining Institute in our issue of November 7th was merely that we had observed an editorial of a rather unexpected nature in "The Canadian Mining Journal," and we expressed wonder as to whether the Canadian Mining Institute would be willing to endorse those editorial statements made by "The Canadian Mining Journal." The editorial in our paper consisted almost wholly of quotations from "The Canadian Mining Journal," with very little comment by us, and certainly none of a nature derogatory to the Canadian Min-

ing Institute; this fact has been unfortunately overlooked by some of the six men mentioned above, although the quotations were carefully placed within quotation marks. Regardless of this fact, some of these six men deal with the matter as if all the statements in our editorial, whether inside or outside of quotation marks, had been made by *The Canadian Engineer*.

It is true that the introduction to our editorial was based upon the remarks made a few years ago by Prof. Haultain, which remarks appeared to be thoroughly borne out by the editorial in "The Canadian Mining Journal," but it was clearly stated that "we wonder whether the Canadian Mining Institute would officially endorse this admission" (that is, the admission made by Prof. Haultain and "The Canadian Mining Journal"). So far as six prominent members of the Canadian Mining Institute are concerned, we have received our answer. Those members, at least, apparently are not prepared to endorse the statements of Prof. Haultain and "The Canadian Mining Journal."

THE POWER BOARD'S CONFERENCE

CANADA is in better position than any other country to enjoy the advantages resulting from the development and use of water-powers. Moreover, the best available information shows that at present Canada has more satisfactory general and basic data respecting water power resources than has any other English-speaking country at least, and possibly as much as has any nation of equally vast territory.

But there has long been needed some central organization to act as a clearing-house of information and as a medium of co-ordination both in administrative and investigatory work. The Dominion Power Board, appointed last year by the government, appeared to be the logical medium, but, as pointed out some weeks ago in these columns, no information had yet been made public regarding the investigations and plans of that Board, so the public was not able to judge whether that body would rise to its opportunities for national service. We are glad to note that the Board has now decided to give full publicity to its work, beginning with the minutes of the two-day conference of Dominion and provincial authorities held last week at Ottawa under the Board's auspices.

Judging from the report of that conference, there is every reason for the public to expect good work by the Board. The conference, apparently, was successful and will lead to most useful and important results. It should give a stimulus to the urgently needed co-ordination of energy resources of all kinds. It has at least cleared the air nicely in regard to preliminaries, and will lead, we hope, to better team work and more rapid progress in developing our "white coal" and conserving our fuel for work in which it will be indispensable in years to come.

In the past there have been a lack of cohesion and a duplication of effort and expenditure by the various organizations that were represented at last week's conference. This has been pardonable and, in fact, at times has been beneficial in encouraging competitive ability. But the war and its consequences have brought us face to face with the need for a more serious consideration of economic problems, and the stimulus of competitive effort should no longer be needed to so great an extent as formerly. There are now more or less efficient and effective administrative and investigatory systems covering practically all parts of Canada. Their work should be continued under the master control of some central body, like the Dominion Power Board, which should be given authority, staff and funds sufficient to enable it to insist upon all Canadian energy resources being utilized in the best interests of the nation, present and future, and to safeguard private rights from any unfair onus due to its commands. With such a Board aggressively at work and supported by proper legislation, there would be no fear for the future of the energy resources of this country.

In view of the diverse and fundamentally important matters requiring co-operation by the various Dominion and