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THE MONTH.

The effective and important work already done by the Provincial Mining Association constitutes for it a strong claim for the active co-operation of the mining districts particularly, and of all other sections of the Province generally, in its endeavours to promote the interests of the mining industry of British Columbia. This co-operation can be most readily ensured by the prompt organization of a branch of the Association in every part of the Province populous enough to admit of one being formed. Where the population is too sparse to be favourable to such organization efforts should be made to induce as many as possible of the numerous scattered units to either join the central organization or the nearest branch, so that both financially and as regards number of members the Association as a whole may have the benefit of general support. To thoroughly succeed in its commendable aims and intentions the Association must be in a position to speak as the voice of all interested in permanently securing for British Columbia the substantial benefits attendant upon the establishment of the mining industry upon a firm and profitable basis. It is gen-

erally admitted that this industry will in the future, under favourable conditions, take front rank among those connected with the development of the natural resources of the Province. The nearness or otherwise of that future should not, however, be left to chance; on the contrary, every effort should be put forth to enter upon it at once. This can only be done by united action. Never before in its history has any movement been so well-timed to bring about the changes necessary to gain for the Province a wider recognition of the enormous extent of its mineral resources and a consequent employment of a much larger amount of outside capital in their development. The experience of the past compels the conclusion that the Provincial Legislature, acting without the mature advice and well-considered recommendations of a responsible body thoroughly conversant with the conditions and requirements of the mining industry, may not be depended upon to legislate in such a manner as well promote its advancement and at the same time provide that its burden of taxation shall be judiciously imposed. The organization of branches is proceeding, but the active interest so widely displayed three or four months since, when delegates were being appointed to attend the general convention in Victoria, may not be maintained if advantage be not at once taken of the disposition to uphold the hands of the central executive. This reminder is therefore considered timely, so that there may be no encouragement of a spirit of laxity or inclination to let things take care of themselves. If the Mining Association be a necessity—and there is no doubt that much useful work awaits the earnest attention of such a body—then this is no time for a drifting policy. Prompt and general organization will alone give the Association the numerical and financial strength requisite to make it a power in the land. With a similar backing of public opinion in the conduct of its regular business as it had behind it at the general convention, there need be no doubt as to its influence with the Legislature, which is always prepared to heed public opinion representative of any considerable proportion of the population of the Province, especially when that opinion is supported by arguments and facts and figures carefully prepared and deliberately submitted for its consideration. It is therefore urged that this question of organization of branches