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Editor

J. C. MURRAY. B.A., B.Sc.

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THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

Much was expected of the Institute's fifteenth annual meeting. Expectations were not dissatisfied. The Ottawa Branch appointed a vigorous Executive Committee. Aided by members of the Geological Survey and others, this committee did its duty nobly. In fact, there was hardly a dull moment during the three days of session. The hotel accommodation and service were hyper-excellent. The new Chateau Laurier is a thing of beauty. Ottawa at last possesses an hotel for which it need not blush. The outstanding features of the whole meeting, apart from certain papers to which reference will be made later, were the business sessions, the smoker and the dinner. At the business sessions there were discussed resolutions submitted by two prominent members, supported by several others and criticized by several. The resolutions were defeated; but their end is not yet. In essence they met the approval of the whole assembly. In form they were not acceptable. In view of subsequent development we can see no adequate reason for the postponement of an obviously necessary duty. Sooner or later the Institute will pass these or similar resolutions.

The resolutions in question were foreshadowed in an editorial in our issue of March 1st. Since they were intended to embody the opinion of the Institute, and did not take the form of a memorial to the Government; and since no more effective occasion could possibly have been chosen, it seems indeed superfluous to have permitted considerations of expediency to have overruled all else. A request for an entirely autonomous Dominion Department of Mines is reasonable. They express the Institute's need of more action—participation in legislation is neither undignified nor untaetful. To impress the importance of the mining industry upon the country's representatives is neither untimely nor reprehensible. In fact, both the Premier and Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave evidence in their admirable speeches on Friday night of their general desire to do everything possible for the industry. We believe that both might have spoken more strongly had they had as a working basis a carefully worded resolution from the Institute. Hence it follows that a rare opportunity was missed. It remains for the Council to take the matter up as promptly as is feasible. In fact, a letter vote may prove a satisfactory remedy for the miscarriage at Ottawa.

The reading of Dominion and Provincial statistics brought out a most satisfactory state of affairs. The enormous growth of the mining industry during 1912