

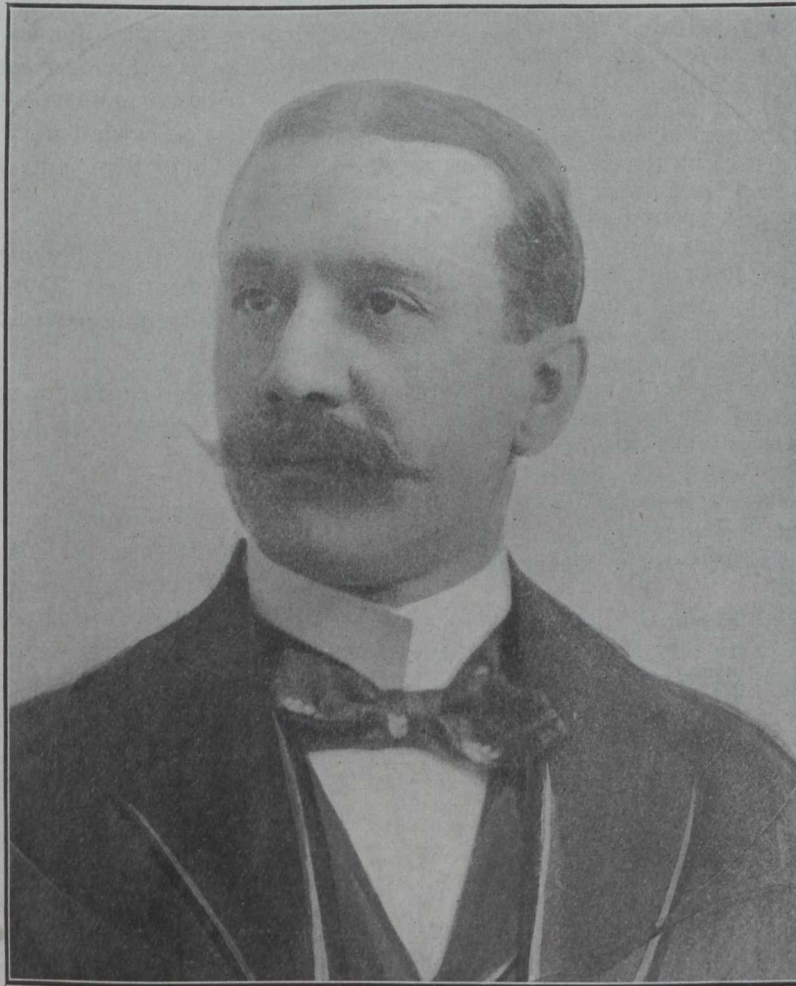
THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE R. SMITH

OPENING ADDRESS

President: Gentlemen, just a year ago, in opening the eighth annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute, I was at that time afforded the exceptional pleasure of welcoming you to the cradle of Canadian nationality, that ancient capital of an old French Province so justly

pared with the two and a half centuries which have elapsed since the French Minister of State rendered his powerful patronage to the first practical mining essays in New France. It is said, nevertheless, that as early as 1660 the Jesuit missionaries reported gold having been found on St. Joseph's Island, in Lake Huron, and Mr. Merritt tells us that copper ore was actually worked



RETIRING PRESIDENT—GEORGE R. SMITH

renowned for its wealth of historical association, and its peculiarly beautiful surroundings.

To-day it is my privilege to greet you in the magnificent Queen City of the great and wealthy sister Province of Ontario. Last year we peered together through mists of vanishing years into the early days in the history of New France, when the development of mineral wealth in North America by European settlers was aided by the fostering care of that great French Minister, Colbert. To-day we meet in a Province possessing, I believe, the youngest Bureau of Mines of any of the older Provinces of the Confederation, and in which State encouragement and recognition of the mining industry can scarcely be traced back more than fifteen years, as com-

in this Province in the vicinity of Point of Mines or Mica Bay as early as 1770, an English company having sunk a shaft into a vein, which afterwards decreased, and was abandoned. I am not going into the details of the early operations of the Bruce Mines, or the circumstances which attended the production in 1880 in Leeds county of iron manufactured from ore exploited in that vicinity. For a great number of years the mining development of this Province was extremely intermittent, chiefly owing to the fact that no smelting was carried on here, and that the demand for ore came chiefly from the other side of the international boundary line. Yet, in recent years, the advance of mining operations in Ontario has been little short of marvellous.