

On the other hand, the Mining and Metallurgical Society purports to represent the profession. This it cannot do so long as admission to membership is denied to any man whose qualifications meet the Society's requirements. Like a University, it can deny its degree to no fit person.

In one direction in particular, the Mining and Metallurgical Society appears to have got on the wrong trail. Members, we believe, are not permitted to advertise the fact that they are members. This defeats the very purpose of the organization and removes the only effective means of discipline. The organizers overlooked the patent fact that, as the engineer looks to the public for his living, so his standing is dependent upon what the public thinks of him. In other words, the Society must not become a Star Chamber. It should and must strive not only to regulate the profession, but to secure the sympathy and assistance of the nation.

One word in closing. Mr. Garrison in his letter refers to the Society as being an altruistic organization. This is piffling. No professional body is altruistic. Altruism is a colourless something that can perhaps be postulated of religious retreats. The Mining and Metallurgical Society is a body organized to protect the profession of mining engineering. Its prime object, therefore, is self-preservation. Its chief danger is priggery.

QUEBEC MINING LAW AMENDMENTS.

A new spirit has been infused into the administration of mining affairs in the Province of Quebec. Close on the heels of the departure of the Chibougamau Commission comes the announcement that certain changes have been made in the mining laws. The object of these changes is to make the way easy for the prospector and the miner. The mining laws of Quebec have long needed attention. They are now being altered and amended so as to render them a help and not a hindrance to the pioneer and investor. In this respect Ontario, burdened with equivocal, cumbrous, and most involved legislation, falls far behind Quebec. Comparisons may be odious, but they have too often been made at Quebec's expense.

The amendments referred to are six in number. We shall glance at them one by one.

By the new provisions all building materials, clays, limestone, peat, ochres, sands, etc., found on private lands belong to the owner of the surface rights. Under the old regulations, the mining rights for these substances had to be acquired from the Crown. This amendment inures to the benefit of the farmer, if to anyone at all.

In future all sums paid on mining licenses (which are practically yearly leases of mining rights) shall be deducted from the price when mining claims are acquired from the Crown by purchase. This is distinctly beneficial to the mining man.

Formerly a period of four months was allowed between the staking out of a claim and the taking out of the mining license or the consummation of the purchase. By the

late amendments this period is now extended to six months.

Penalties for tampering with stakes was punishable by a fine of \$25, or one month imprisonment. The fine is now placed at \$200, and the alternative imprisonment at six months.

Under the old regulations the deposits of iron sands in the lower St. Lawrence region were purchasable at the rate of \$10 per acre. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is now authorized to reduce this price to four dollars per acre should he deem it advisable.

The last point of change is one relating to municipal taxation of mines and mining plants. In the year 1900, a law was passed exempting all mines and mining plants from municipal taxation for a period of ten years. This measure expires in July of this year. It is now replaced by an amendment exempting the mine itself and the underground plant, but providing that the surface plants, mills, buildings, etc., are taxable by the municipalities.

We believe that there is little to find fault with in these amendments. But there is much to commend in the obvious intention of the Quebec authorities.

PROGRESS AND PROCRASTINATION.

On another page will be found notice of the programme of the Federal Mines Branch for the coming season. We are pleased to find that a British expert has been invited to visit Canada and consult with the Government with regard to the regulation of the manufacture and storage of explosives. No delay should occur in taking up this most necessary investigation.

Other timely investigations are to be undertaken. Amongst these are such questions as the utilization of peat, the treatment of iron pyrite, the production of spelter and zinc oxide, the magnetic concentration of iron ores, etc., etc.

These activities will bring results. It is regrettable, however, that one most urgent problem has been overlooked. In an editorial in our last issue we pointed out that the Hon. Mr. Templeman promised last session to give attention to the matter of life salvage in coal mines. On the programme just issued we see no reference to this. Again it is necessary to exhume the humiliating fact that an officer of the United States Geological Survey had to be called in to instruct the miners of Nanaimo in the use of breathing apparatus. By all means let somebody move.

For the information of all interested, we publish on another page a review of the action taken by other governments.

THAT TIMMINS SAMPLE CAR.

One thing that has contributed to what may be a much exaggerated rating of Porcupine is the Timmins sample incident. In a recent editorial we referred briefly to this. Since writing that editorial we have received what appears to be more authentic information. Some of this we are not at liberty to use. But we are quite free to