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#### A REAL MINISTER OF MINES NEEDED.

That committee of Civil Engineers which so completely misrepresented the mining societies of Canada, is recommending to Premier Borden that the Departments of Mines and Inland Revenue be placed under the same Minister. The suggestion is worthy of its authors. They apparently do not know any more about the magnitude of the mining industry of Canada than they do about the number of technical men in the mining societies.

Mining is one of Canada's greatest industries and should be recognized as such by the government. We should have as Minister of Mines a man familiar with the mining industry and he should not be given charge of any other Department. The job requires the whole attention of a properly qualified man, not the half attention of a politician.

Apparently those who have been chosen to govern the country look on the portfolio of Minister of Mines as a sop to be passed around to aspiring members, rather than a position of great responsibility to be carefully administered. How else can one explain the absurd selections that have been made in recent years?

The chief qualifications for the portfolio of Minister of Mines in Canada seem to be political favor and ignorance of mining. It is perhaps recognition of this fact that leads the Civil Engineers to suggest that the Minister of Inland Revenue might as well be also Minister of Mines. Possibly the same reasoning led our brilliant statesmen to combine the portfolio of Mines with that of Secretary of State.

Canada needs a Minister of Mines. We have had enough of the double portfolio nonsense.

The news that the plant of the Kristiansands nickel refining company had been destroyed by fire was received here with mixed feelings. There is regret here for the loss of the plant; but no regret for the cessation of export of nickel from Norway to Germany.

The Norwegian company was not a large producer of refined nickel; but it was under contract to sell a large proportion of its output to Germany. We are not sorry that Germany suffers by the fire.

The process used at Kristiansand is the Hybinette process, which is to be used in Ontario by the British America Nickel Corporation. The construction of a new plant in Norway at this time would therefore be of especial interest here.

Mr. A. A. Cole, President of the Canadian Mining Institute, is in British Columbia seeking the assistance of Westerners in the distribution of the Advisory Council's questionnaire. The Canadian Mining Institute is the organization best qualified to make an intelligent census of mining men in Canada and it is to be hoped that Mr. Cole's trip will result in the hearty co-operation of the Western branch.