

of the governing body or Council; the tangible results achieved by the society in the interests of the mining industry. The first of these causes is naturally paramount in importance, for the Institute could not have influenced public opinion, secured recognition from governments, or otherwise played as it has a momentous part in the amelioration of conditions, had the men who administered its affairs and policies been anything else but zealous, able and disinterested. It is, meanwhile, a matter of record that one of the Institute's presidents, at the time resident in a distant part of the country, never once failed in his attendance at a Council meeting during his two years' term of office, although to perform this duty he was obliged on each occasion to undertake a special journey of over a thousand miles. To attend an annual meeting the president elected in 1907 travelled over six thousand miles, while last year the president of the Institute devoted no less than seven weeks of his time to duties, at times prodigiously strenuous, which fell to his lot as the Institute's chief executive officer and leader of the ocean-to-ocean excursion, representing over ten thousand miles of continuous travelling. These are merely instances. It may be added that there are very few men who have served on the Council to whom almost equally high tribute might not be justly paid; and to their devotedness, interest, loyalty and singleness of purpose the society is very deeply indebted.

As to the actual accomplishments of the Institute during the period under review, there have been, of course, advantages common to all successful societies of a like nature; such advantages, for example—social and educational—as are expected to be derived from professional intercourse, the interchange of views and ideas between men following the same calling, and by the publication and dissemination of valuable information and records. But probably no mining society in the world has exerted its ascendancy to an equal degree or to better purpose in safeguarding the interests of its members, or rather of the industries they represent, against the passage of oppressive or ill-advised legislation, or has done more to influence the introduction of remedial measures where these were necessitous. Merely to indicate the scope of the Institute's activities in these directions, allusion need but be made to one or two instances of its successful opposition to the passage or operation of ill-considered legislation, such, for example, as the Order-in-Council of the Ontario Government in 1899, recommending the imposition of an export duty on copper-nickel ores and mattes—the effect of which, had it been put in practice, would undoubtedly have been to paralyze the nickel industry in Canada; and the proposed "Act to amend the Mines Act" of Ontario, 1900, which, as originally framed, passing a first reading, imposed absolutely ruinous and prohibitive taxes on the mining industry of the province. Again, in more recent times the advice of the Institute has been repeatedly sought by both the Federal and Provincial Governments in respect of proposed mining legislation, while if the society had done nothing else, its claims to consideration would have been more than upheld by the successful result of its endeavours whereby a Federal Department of Mines has been established under the direct administration of a responsible Minister. The recent repeal of the Quebec Mining Law, and the enactment of a new set of regulations decidedly more conducive to the encouragement of legitimate prospecting and industry, is also directly traceable to the Institute's representations.

Other testimony might readily be adduced in evidence of the Institute's activity and services in the past,

but doubtless sufficient has now been mentioned to fully serve the present purpose.

It may now, meanwhile, be permissible to refer more specifically to the objects of the Institute, to the ideas of the promoters who formulated them, and to compare conditions existing when these ideas were adopted with conditions to-day, in the hope thereby of provoking discussion on some of the questions involved. Briefly, then, these objects as set out in the Institute's charter, comprise the promotion of the arts and sciences connected with the economical production of valuable minerals and metals; the distribution of information; the establishment of a central reference library and headquarters; concerted action upon matters affecting the mining and metallurgical industries of Canada, and lastly, the encouragement and promotion of these industries by all lawful and honourable means. These objects, it will be noted, cover a very wide field, and are very much more comprehensive, than the sole object, for example, of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, which, as a strictly technical society, confines its aims to the general advancement of mining and metallurgical science. The charter of the Canadian Mining Institute, moreover, differs from the constitution of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in that the former contains no clause relative to the qualifications required of persons seeking enrollment as members, the matter being regulated merely by by-law, which is subject to amendment at any annual meeting; whereas in the case of the latter these requirements are very explicitly defined, and are not amenable to change. The records of the Institute, however, show that its founders very carefully considered the issue of the desirability, or otherwise, of organization on strict lines of technical or professional qualifications; and the conclusions then arrived at that the time was not opportune to attempt to found a society composed exclusively of professional men, and that, furthermore, if all conditions were favourable to the promotion of such a project, greater ends might be served by organizing on broader lines, and thus launching an organization which would embrace within its scope of activities not only the promotion of the arts and sciences of mining, but that of the industry of mining also. Hence, this was the idea that found expression in the charter, and the by-law regulating the matter of the eligibility of candidates for enrollment gave the Council practically without limitation or restriction discretionary powers as to whom they might admit to membership. Every system, however, is liable to abuse, and there can be no doubt that during the first few years of the Institute's existence, in the natural desire to increase its membership, less care than might have been exercised in scrutinizing the status of certain candidates, with the result that several were admitted whose admission reflected no credit on the organization. No change in this general policy was made until some three years ago, when, at the annual meeting in Toronto, a new by-law was adopted establishing a second class of membership, those elected to which being termed "associates." This new by-law, while not limiting the Council's discretionary powers, was at least a suggestion to that body to thereafter discriminate between technically and non-technically qualified persons applying for enrollment, by classifying the latter as associate members. As to the advantage of this change opinion is still somewhat divided, although generally it is believed favourable. At the same time, it is fair to add that at least one member of the Council has registered a protest against the present practice, on the grounds that in his opinion it is not in the interests of the Canadian