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## THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON MINES AND MINERALS.

Last winter a Select Standing Committee, composed of twenty-five members of the House of Commons, was appointed "to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to it by the House; and report from time to time its observations and opinions thereon."

The appointment of the Committee was a compromise. Urgent requests from the Canadian Mining Institute for a Royal Commission had been put before the Government. There is little doubt that these requests would have been granted had mining interests sufficient representation in the House. As it was, the Government could not see its way clear to appoint a Royal Commission, largely, we believe, because of the outlay of money that would be entailed. In every sense this was a blunder, and a blunder that may be fairly attributed to a general lack of information on the part of the House as to the supreme importance of the mineral industries. However, the Select Standing Committee is better than nothing.

Throughout March, April and May the Committee held four meetings. Delegates from the Canadian Mining Institute gave evidence, chiefly on points connected with the granting of mineral rights. The heads of the two branches of the Department of Mines also were questioned. No other witnesses were called.

The printed account of the proceedings of the Standing Committee impresses the reader in several respects. In the first place it is apparent that the members during the first three sessions were bogged. From the minutes of discussions we gather that no one knew what was to be dealt with.

Receiving the evidence of the witnesses was the only work accomplished. At the fourth meeting, however, the Dominion mining regulations and the mining law affecting the Yukon were taken up section by section. Three important resolutions resulted from this meeting. They were:—

1. That there should be assigned to the Department of Mines the administration of mines, including the issue of title thereto, and of all mining laws.
2. That an Act should be passed consolidating all the laws relating to mines under Federal control.
3. That consideration should be given to a policy that will have for its object the re-acquisition by the Crown of mining rights heretofore granted in patents of land.

Of these resolutions, the first calls for most immediate attention. The present cumbrous system gives