

## APPENDIX No. 5

The CHAIRMAN.—I think it will be well to have that impression go abroad that the committee is willing to listen to such representations.

Mr. MADDIN.—In fact the committee will be depending to a large extent on suggestions from such bodies.

The CHAIRMAN.—Well, the committee is here to consider them, and I would think that would be one of the functions of the committee in general.

Mr. STRATTON.—You have had a good deal of experience in such matters yourself and I would think that what we ought to do, now that the committee has been organized, is to get to work on some definite and well defined plan. If we could have, as suggested a moment ago, some officer of the department appointed by the minister, a capable person, who would go over the different mining laws, as they exist at present, and see how far we could have a general law, as suggested by the honourable member for the Yukon, that would assimilate the provisions of the law in the different provinces, or that would be arranged so as to allow the different provinces to work under it and through it. Then we could take up some other matters and get details brought before us which would perhaps give us information upon which to work in connection with some of the other suggestions which have been made. For instance, there is a general feeling that while there has been a Geological Department at Ottawa it has been more or less useless so far as being of any advantage to the mining business of Canada; that it has not been of the practical usefulness that it was expected it would be.

Mr. CONGDON.—I would like to ask the minister if he thinks it desirable to endeavour to get a conference with the different provinces with the view to securing, to a certain extent at all events, uniform laws. Although it is impossible to get them entirely uniform it would be of enormous advantage if the backbone, so to speak, of the legislation with regard to mining, was similar throughout the Dominion. There is one matter especially that is worthy of consideration; take the Yukon, for instance, occasionally a geologist comes in there, he spends the summer there, but he will not tell any one that he has discovered anything. About two years later we discover in some report that he has found something that is valuable—after the information has absolutely ceased to be of any value to any one. It seems to me that one of the most important things to be done in that connection would be to have one man in your department whose duty it would be to collect all the information in regard to that particular section of the country, who would spend most of his time in that country and who would not wait for the publication of his report before giving out any information, but who would publish it as he goes along. Then it would be of some use to the people for whom it is intended. My own experience of geologists is that they are so infernally careful of their reputation that they are of no use to themselves or any one else and that is the case with mining experts generally as a rule. They are very careful about making any definite statements that there is mineral of value there, it does not hurt a man's reputation if, after he has reported adversely, a property should turn out to be of some value but if he should report favourably and it should not turn out to be valuable it would injure his reputation. The whole of those geologists who have gone out from the department are so frightened of their reputations that they will not give out any information until they get back here and spend a considerable amount of time in eliminating every valuable feature from their report until they get something so common place that when it is published it is no good to anybody. I believe that in the Yukon, say, if there was a man of experience in the rock mining industry sent in there and allowed to remain there and to give out information to the people, and I believe the same is true of other sections of the country, such a man would be of invaluable service to the mining industry; more valuable than all the other portion of the Geological Department has been. I would call attention to the valuable work of Mr. A. H. Brooks of the United States staff last