

son Brown, in order to read his paper on "Suggested Improvements in the Mining Laws of Canada."

Mr. COSTE reviewed the laws in force in the various provinces and objected to the position of the Dominion, which governed by regulations emanating from Orders in Council, a more permanent method was desirable. The *results* of the present laws were their greatest condemnation. Out of 400,000 acres granted in Ontario under patent since 1897, only 4,000 acres were being worked. At least another 400,000 acres had been granted previously to 1897, so that only one half of one per cent. of the land granted for mining purposes was being developed. There remained in Ontario only a million acres of mineral lands, and at the present rate these would be exhausted in 15 years. To rely on the self interest of the owners for the development of the lands had been shown by experience to be useless. The chances were 2,000 to 1 against development of lands whose value was unknown, but amongst which were almost all the good mines.

His remedy had been accepted, in principle, by all the provinces and consisted of imposing an assessment *in work*, of about \$5 per acre, from holders of mining lands; failure to comply with this condition forfeited the lands to the Crown, unless an equivalent amount in cash be paid within one month of the end of the year. In the Yukon, \$200 an acre was the requirement. In Nova Scotia 40 days labor per area (four-fifths of an acre) was required, equal to \$200 per year. Mr. Coste thought a \$5 assessment would be one of the greatest boons to the bona fide mining community since it would tend to eliminate the drones and stimulate the exertions of the busy bees.

Mr. COSTE'S proposals were supported by Major Leckie and others, and strenuously opposed by Mr. Gibson and others, resulting in a very animated discussion, which did not terminate until near midnight, when the meeting for 1904 was concluded.

## CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

### Annual Meeting, 1904—Presidential Address.

GENTLEMEN :

It becomes my pleasant duty, as President of the Canadian Mining Institute, to welcome you all to this our 6th annual meeting, and, personally, permit me to greet you all the more heartily as this is the first meeting of this Institute to take place in my native Province of Ontario. In past years we have held our annual meetings in the good old City of Montreal, which, by the special Act of Parliament incorporating our Institute, is designated as the place for our head office. Royal times did we have there and good lively discussions on many very interesting topics concerning our mining industries. But we propose here in Toronto to lag behind, neither in contentment and good fellowship among ourselves, nor in the sharp interest always shown in the papers presented by our members. The only fear we have is that our discussions on matters affecting our mining industries will not be as lively here, outside of the French-Canadian invigorating atmosphere. This would be a pity, but it, however, remains to be seen whether it will be so, and we can tell better after the meeting whether our fears in this respect were correct, or whether mining men, especially Canadians, are not always lively wherever they may be.

When this Institute was founded in 1898, it numbered sixty-six members from Quebec, and forty-four from Ontario, exclusive of student members, whilst at the end of last year our record shows sixty-nine members from Quebec, and one hundred and

eight from Ontario, exclusive of student members. To this much quicker and larger growth of membership in Ontario, is to be attributed in a great measure the fact that we are gathering in Toronto to-day; and it is an indication that the mining centre of Canada is becoming fashionable and is preparing to move west and north, as further exemplified by the fact that we have now eleven members in the Yukon, while we had none there in 1898, and that we have now sixty-eight members in British Columbia, when we had only forty-two there in 1898. It is true, as an offset, that we have now from Nova Scotia thirty members instead of sixteen in 1898, but still it is clear that our Quebec and Maritime Province membership is (in point of number only) lagging behind the membership west of Montreal. No doubt this is only a natural result of the opening up of the western section of the country, but still I thought that by mentioning the fact I might nevertheless stimulate our eastern members to renewed efforts in getting all the good mining engineers and mining men in their provinces to join our Institute, in order to make it a still more powerful factor in carrying out the purposes, for which it was chartered by a special Act of the Parliament of Canada. These purposes are well defined in the preamble of our Charter, they are unselfish and noble purposes; and since this is our first meeting outside of Montreal, it seems a good opportunity to review briefly the past work of our Institute, as this review will show that we are living up to the patriotic, unselfish aims for which we got together some years ago, and are thereby greatly benefitting and promoting the development of the mining industries of Canada.

A little of the past history of the several mining organizations which preceded us is here necessary, since we are the successors of these bodies of mining men formerly organized separately in the different mining provinces, but which afterwards not only formed a federation, but even dissolved themselves subsequently into a larger and stronger Institute under a general Charter from the Canadian Parliament to embrace mining engineers and mining men from the whole of the Dominion of Canada.

The following is a brief sketch of the evolution of these mining associations :—

January 23rd, 1891—General Mining Association, Province of Quebec, was formed.

March 30th, 1892—Mining Society of Nova Scotia was formed.

April 10th, 1894—Ontario Mining Institute was formed.

January, 1896—Federated Canadian Mining Institute was formed.

March 4th, 1898—Canadian Mining Institute was formed.

Before the organization of the Quebec Mining Association there was a small organization in Nova Scotia called The Gold-Miners Association of Nova Scotia, of which our present worthy secretary was the only honorary member. We must not overlook the Mica Miners Association, which did some good work in collecting a large amount of data concerning the production, uses and markets for mica, nor the organization effected last year of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia, a very well organized body of all classes of the community in that Province, organized for protection, and the betterment of mining legislation in British Columbia.

All these organizations have been a powerful factor for good. First through their publications :—

A list of the papers read before these bodies forms quite an imposing and exceedingly creditable contribution to our mining literature; they, and the discussions upon them have been published in pamphlets and handsome volumes, and have rendered an impor-