

mittees. He will be called upon to act the part of host, entertainer, adviser, and peace-maker.

In view of the fact that the summer of 1913 will be marked by the presence in Canada of a most formidable gathering of scientists, the selection of the presiding officer should be given much thought. The International Geological Congress will bring to Toronto some hundreds of geologists and mining men from many parts of the world. Practically all the leading spirits of the profession will gather here. In separate parties they will tour through all Canada.

In organizing and handling this large series of excursions, consummate care, tact, and business acumen will be required. And the bulk of this responsibility must be assumed by the President.

There is also another serious consideration. The Institute has undertaken, through a strong committee, to revise and codify the Dominion mining laws. This will be the largest feature of the coming year's work. If the President be not thoroughly competent to handle this complicated matter, if he be not conversant with the requirements of the case, then the battle for right legislation will be foredoomed to failure.

We urge upon the members of the Canadian Mining Institute the necessity of pondering long and well before casting their votes. Above all no nominations should be made nor should votes be cast for sectional or personal reasons. The Institute is striving to become a national body, and is, in some measure, succeeding. The good of the whole society must be considered first and solely.

THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MINES BRANCH FOR 1910.

From the Director's General Report, which precedes the special staff reports, we gather an outline of the work accomplished and begun during the calendar year, 1910.

Dr. Haanel asserts preliminarily that the labours of the Mines Branch are becoming more practical every year. As evidence of this he instances the large demand for the monographs published by the Branch.

Important amongst the new investigations begun during the year was the study of the building and ornamental stones of Canada. A summary of Dr. W. A. Parks' monograph on the building stone of Ontario is included in the present volume. But the strongest feature is the inception of systematic work on the character, handling, use, and storage of explosives.

Fuel testing, iron ore concentration, experiments in the reduction of refractory zinc ores, and magnetometric surveying are other activities of the Branch.

The preliminary reports presented in this summary cover a wide range of subjects. Iron ores, molybdenum ores, copper mining, mica deposits, peat bogs, etc., etc., are written up by members of the staff. In fact, the Branch appears to have taken stronger and deeper root and to have become imbued with a decidedly

vigorous spirit.

The CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL strongly endorses Dr. Haanel's plea for an adequate central office wherein all the technical staff of the Branch can be properly accommodated. It is to be hoped also that larger appropriations will be secured for the new Explosives Testing Station.

It is with some astonishment that we notice in the accountant's statement an item signifying that the sum of \$25,361.91 was a balance "unexpended and lapsed." The Branch will do well to spend every cent it can secure, and, if possible, run itself into debt. Its total appropriation for 1910 was only \$113,303.65. To carry out future plans on a becoming scale this should be multiplied by five. An unexpended balance in such a department is contrary to all precedent.

ELEMENTARY ECONOMICS.

A prominent mining man, in the course of an interview with the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL, stated that he had twice or thrice offered to pay the price asked for certain prospects in Poreupine, on condition that he first be permitted to spend a considerable amount of money in investigating. In each case this offer was unqualifiedly rejected. The person in question was amply able to carry out any undertaking that appealed to him. He was not only ready and willing but anxious to be responsible for the preliminary development of any reasonably promising claim. But everywhere he found owners asking impossibly high prices and imposing impossibly rapid terms.

This is one general cause of the present decline of public interest in Poreupine. Another incidental cause is the suppression, or non-publication of Mr. Robbins' report on the Hollinger. Still another is the superfluous and glittering generalities that are being published about the Dome, ostensibly from headquarters.

On its own merits Poreupine must stand or fall. Assuredly it needs sane advertising. More assuredly it does suffer from indiscreet booming.

It is high time that the mine owners and operators of Poreupine get together and devise a practicable scheme of publicity.

THE MOLYBDENUM ORES OF CANADA.

Dr. T. L. Walker has added another monograph to his valuable contributions to the literature of Canadian ores. Under the auspices of the Mines Branch he has investigated the molybdenum ores of the Dominion and has presented the results of his observation in the latest publication of the Branch.

Dr. Walker visited most of the best known Canadian deposits. Of these he gives a list of twelve that appeared to him to be most promising. Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia are represented in this list.

Molybdenum is one of the least exploited metals. Its principal ore, molybdenite, presents peculiar difficulties in any attempt to concentrate it. Concen-