

glittering and obvious. He relates his tale. The specimen is but a fragment of a mountain of silica and free gold. He convinces us that in this admixture free gold predominates. Animated by a spirit totally contrary to the commercialism of to-day, he tells us that we may to the purchase a half interest for a paltry sum. We blushing demur. We cannot rob him thus. He becomes vehement. We demur some more. At last, red and wrathful, emitting many unkind words, he leaves us.

### CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

The Canadian Mining Institute held its ninth annual meeting at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on the transacted, and papers, written by men eminent in their profession, were read and discussed. On the evening of the 7th the annual dinner afforded relaxation. The convention, which was an unqualified success, culminated in a two days' visit to Cobalt.

Not in the papers read, nor in the discussions which followed, nor yet in the dinner, lay the principal value of this meeting; but, rather, in the fact that several hundred keen, observant men from every part of Canada were given an opportunity of meeting each other.

A distinguished body of American visitors lent an international tone to the assembly.

The good accomplished by such a meeting is not to be measured. Indirectly, an immense, though indefinite, aggregate of beneficial results may justly be attributed to it. Younger members of the society receive inspiration; older members rub off the encrusting barnacles, and all are brightened and strengthened.

The retiring president, Mr. G. R. Smith, filled the chair with tact and never-flagging enthusiasm.

That careful custodian of the funds, Mr. J. Stevenson Brown, made the most favorable report that the Institute has yet received.

The Institute is deeply indebted to both of these gentlemen, as it likewise is to Mr. H. Mortimer-Lamb, the secretary, who wrought diligently to make the 6th, 7th and 8th of March. For three days business was exceedingly a success. Mr. Lamb also was responsible for the very dainty menu card.

### POSTAL REGULATIONS

The postal treaty between Canada and the United States expires on May 7th next. It has been proposed that the Canadian Government increase the rate of postage on American periodicals to such an extent as to practically exclude certain classes of journals altogether.

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL has no objection to present against a policy which would tend to diminish the overwhelming flood of obnoxious "literature" with which we are being swamped nowadays. But against any measure which would in any way injure or handicap the circulation in Canada of reputable American technical and scientific periodicals, we must register our unqualified dissent. There is ample room for all such journals. The scope for effort and development in Canada, in matters technical and scientific, is ample. Canada's needs are various. It were both shortsighted and ungenerous to place restrictions upon publications whose missions are the dissemination of knowledge and the fostering and advancement of our most important industries.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Some weeks ago, too late for insertion in the last number, the JOURNAL received an entertaining letter from Dr. A. E. Barlow. Dr. Barlow wrote from Liverpool, in the best of spirits and health. We are sorry the limitations of space will not permit us to publish excerpts from the letter, one part of which contained a very refreshing description of a winter voyage across the Atlantic.

The Premier of British Columbia in a recent speech asserted that more progress had been made in the development of metalliferous mines during the last year than in any three previous years combined. This fact he attributed to the policy of his Government in introducing no legislation to disturb existing conditions, and he stated emphatically that this policy would be pursued.

An Order-in-Council bearing upon the oil and coal territories of Southeast Kootenay, passed in 1904, declared coal and oil licenses to be issued at the risk of the applicant.

This resulted in confusion and litigation. The British Columbia Government is now introducing an act to rectify matters.

In February's *Labor Gazette* almost all mining districts are reported as active or busy. Edmonton, Alta., Nelson and Nanaimo, B.C., are classed as "very busy." Among the changes in wages and hours recorded is the grant of a bonus of ten per cent. on the gross earnings of its employees by the Western Fuel Company of Nanaimo. The grant is contingent upon the continuance of present conditions in the coal trade. The Wellington Coal Company granted an advance of ten per cent. from January 1st.

As a result of changes in wages during the last quarter of 1906, 1,129 miners were affected, their total weekly earnings being increased by \$1,410. The companies granting these concessions were the Cumberland Railway & Coal Company, Springhill, N.S.; the Thetford Asbestos Mines, Que.; the Imperial Oil Company, of Sarnia, Ont., and the British Columbia Copper Company, of Greenwood, B.C. During the month of January, 1907, fourteen miners were killed and twenty-two

When the new Mines Taxation Act becomes law an added obligation will be imposed upon the Ontario Government. In proportion as any mining district contributes to the revenue of the Province, so should the Government acknowledge its responsibility for the construction of good roads, the enforcement of sanitary arrangements in camps, and the many other duties which are the functions of an enlightened administration.