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CIRCULATION.

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MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

On another page full notice is given the annual meeting of this live and energetic body. The vigor and hospitality of the Mining Society have become proverbial. Its announced ambition is to develop and advertise the mineral resources of Nova Scotia. With this in view representatives of the Canadian and United States Geological Surveys and of sister societies were invited to attend the recent annual meeting. These distinguished visitors were asked for advice and they gave it.

The freedom of the Ontario Bureau of Mines from political influence was pointed out by one speaker. Another described the work of the United States Geological Survey, especially in its relation to State surveys. Substantial assistance was promised from the Mines Branch of the Federal Department of Mines. On behalf of the Geological Survey, a continuance of the invaluable work done by Messrs. Fletcher and Faribault was assured.

This should be eminently encouraging to Nova Scotia mining men.

Two points, however, accentuated by two of the speakers, should always be borne in mind.

The first of these is that no government can afford to undertake work that should be performed by private individuals.

Secondly, co-operation amongst the operators themselves is essential to progress.

These, doubtless, are truisms. But they are important truisms.

Governmental paternalism weakens any industry. On the other hand, judicious assistance from the government, given at the right time and in the proper way, may galvanize a moribund industry into healthy and permanent activity.

It remains for the Mining Society of Nova Scotia to determine just what assistance the mineral industries of the Province require. And this is a question the seriousness and complexity of which must not be overlooked.

Bounties are temporary expedients. Tariffs have a larger field of application, and, in some instances, must be considered. But, more vital than these, is the necessity of *knowledge* of the extent and value of already discovered mineral deposits. This can be secured only by intelligent private enterprise, assisted by the Federal and Provincial Bureaus. Topographic and geologic surveying and diamond drilling are legitimate forms of government assistance. To these may be added the publicity given by means of official publications.

If, however, these official efforts are not utilized fully and promptly by the mining fraternity, they become worse than useless.