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## The Canadian Mining Journal

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### N INTERNATIONAL MINING CONVENTION AT VANCOUVER.

An international mining convention will be held at Vancouver, B.C., from the 8th to the 10th of January, 1919, inclusive. It will be conducted under the auspices of the Vancouver Chamber of Mines, the officials of which body propose bringing some of the most prominent mining men of the continent to this Province to participate in the proceedings. They take the position that British Columbia's possibilities as a mining centre are just beginning to be realized; that its future in this respect has been to some extent forecast by what has been done in supplying metals necessary in the manufacture of munitions; that the outlook has been further brightened by the discovery and the development to some extent of molybdenite and manganese, to say nothing of platinum; and that its mineral resources have as yet not been exploited in any marked degree. As its history as a mineral producing country has yet to be written, they think both its citizens and the outside world should be brought to more fully realize its riches in this respect and that one of the best means is through a convention of the representative character contemplated and the arrangement of a programme which will be both entertaining and educative.

### ENGINEERS AND THE MINING INDUSTRY

In the October Bulletin of the Canadian Mining Institute reference is made to the relations with the Engineering Institute of Canada, the society formerly known as the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. The secretary urges on members the desirability of consolidating to protect the engineering professions and promises to the Engineering Institute the co-operation of the Mining Institute whenever it may be requested.

To protect the interests of its members is one of the proper functions of any society. Another proper function is to co-operate with other societies on matters of common interest. Obviously, therefore, it is to be expected that there should be co-operation between the Mining Institute and the Engineering Institute on matters affecting the status of the engineering profession. We have no doubt that there will be.

It is a mistake, however, to expect that there will not be differences between these two Institutes. The aims of the two are similar in some respects; but quite different in others. Failure to recognize the points of similarity and difference has been responsible for some unpleasantness in the past. Would it not be well for each Institute to undertake to make the members of the other more familiar with the nature of the respective societies?

To us the essential difference between the Institutes is that one represents an industry, and the other represents a profession.

The Canadian Mining Institute is chiefly composed of technical men. This is a natural consequence of the fact that mining and metallurgical operations are to a very large extent directed by, and carried on with the assistance of technical men. It does not follow, however, that the Mining Institute is a mere technical society. We would be very sorry if it should become such. The aim of the Mining Institute is to develop the mineral resources of Canada. Among its members are several who have had no technical education; but have other qualifications which make them equally valuable as members. They would not qualify, and would have no particular desire to belong to, an engineering society; but they are eminently qualified to take a leading part in the mining and metallurgical industries.

The Engineering Institute of Canada, on the other hand, represents no particular industry. It has, nevertheless, good and sufficient reasons for existence. Comparatively few mining engineers belong to the Engineering Institute because the Mining Institute gives them the advantages of a professional society while it also represents their industry. The professional members of the Canadian Mining Institute will always be found ready to co-operate with the members of the Engineering Institute in efforts to improve the status of [the engineering profession.