

to few men to hold an official position in the public service for fifty years.

At the last session of the Legislature of Ontario the "Act respecting Land Surveyors and the Survey of Lands" was amended. It is perhaps too early to pronounce it an unqualified success, but we must all allow that it is an improvement on the old one. The qualifying examination for admission to practice has been extended to include among others the kindred subjects of railway surveying and drainage work, both of which are likely to engage the attention of an increasing number of our surveyors in the future. It is a matter of satisfaction that provision has been made for the guidance of surveyors when called upon to act in those townships which have been subdivided under the system prevailing for the last thirty years and upwards, as doubts have often arisen in the mind as to the law in such cases. It is now laid down clearly in the fifty-second section of the amended Act. I trust that any doubtful points may be well ventilated in the discussion likely to arise through the "Question Drawer," a new feature, as you will perceive, in our programme this session, and one I venture to think which will commend itself to you. The papers on the agenda are all of practical importance to the surveyor, and I invite free discussion thereon. It does not seem to me as if the public or the profession itself are sufficiently aware of the facilities which our best qualified surveyors have of acquiring valuable information, or why are not their services more frequently called into requisition? Some of our soundest Loan Companies have Provincial Land Surveyors of repute as valuers; why should not more of them follow suit? As a judge of timber our practical surveyors ought to be sound. I know several who are such, and who have found it not unremunerative; why should not many more avail themselves of the unrivalled chances of acquiring this knowledge and fitting themselves for positions of trust and emolument? The mining industry of this Province is as yet in its infancy. Here is a field in which our educated men may have full scope for their talents. Possessing as they must an elementary knowledge of mineralogy and geology at the outset of their career, they enter the field with a fair start. Study and practice must do the rest. I know more than one surveyor whose services as a mining engineer and expert have been eagerly sought, and who have been professionally employed outside the Dominion.

I think I may say that last year has been a busy one with most of our brethren. At least we have found great difficulty in getting "papers" prepared, want of time has been invariably pleaded. I am glad that this should be so, and trust that the good time may continue. In my own case, I have to ask your indulgence for not having prepared something more worthy of your attention, but I think I can truly say that I have not had half a day at my disposal in which I could sit down quietly to devote to the proper preparation of something wherewith to interest you. I am glad to be able to report that very shortly we hope to have the different Acts by which a surveyor has to govern himself printed in a pamphlet form of useful size and shape. During the year a Digest of Survey cases as reported has