

3. A standard certificate must be endorsed by the Secretary of the Institute and stamped by a representative of the railways, who will be in attendance at the Secretary's office, room 3, Windsor Hotel, on the three days of the meeting at hours to be bulletined later.

4. A charge of twenty-five cents (25c.) will be assessed on each certificate.

The provisional programme of the meeting is as follows: The proceedings will be opened at 10 a.m., on Wednesday by an address from the President. The Wednesday morning, and, if necessary, the afternoon session of that day will be devoted to the consideration of business affairs to be submitted to the meeting, including the report of the Council; the Treasurer's statement and balance sheet; the proposed repeal of and amendments to the by-laws; and the election of council

for the ensuing term. A selection of papers will be read and discussed on Wednesday evening, and at the Thursday and Friday sessions.

Among those who have either definitely or provisionally promised to present papers are the following: Dr. J. F. Kemp, of Columbia University; Dr. Heinrich Ries, of Cornell University; Mr. H. P. H. Brumell; Mr. W. Blakemore; Mr. H. S. Badger; Mr. R. E. Chambers; Mr. F. Cirkel; Mr. Eugene Coste; Mr. E. T. Corkill; Mr. W. D. Craig; Mr. D. B. Dowling; Dr. B. E. Fernow; Mr. S. S. Fowler; Mr. J. C. Haas; Mr. Frederick Hobart; Mr. H. E. T. Haultain; Mr. E. B. Kirby; Dr. A. C. Lane; Mr. G. C. Mackenzie; Mr. F. C. Merry; Mr. A. J. McNab; Mr. J. C. Murray; Mr. J. Obalski; Mr. D. W. Robb and Mr. George R. Smith.

The annual dinner will be held on Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

THE MINERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA DURING 1908.

A. S. Barnstead.

The cause of Nova Scotia's general prosperity in later years lies to a very great extent in the fact that the Province possesses extraordinary wealth in her mines, resources that are appreciated alike by Government and people. While the Government owns the minerals, yet the actual mining is left to the enterprise of private capitalists who hold their rights in leases from the government. This is a source of considerable revenue to the Province and the large increase in royalties in the last dozen years has enabled the Government to enter upon a policy of expansion along other lines.

The rental exacted by the Crown is very small. A coal lease carries with it a royalty of ten cents on the long ton, though the Province made a special arrangement with the Dominion Coal Company in 1893 for a 99-year lease whereby that company pays 12½ cents per ton royalty. Two per cent. on the gross value brings a revenue of 36 cents per ounce for unsmelted gold and 38 cents for smelted gold. Five cents per ton is what the Government exacts as royalty on iron taken from the ore beds reserved by the Government. Licenses to search are issued at the rate of \$30 for an area of five square miles in the case of minerals other than gold or silver. Leases for four renewable terms of twenty years each can be selected from them at a cost of \$50.00 each, and are subject to an annual rental of \$20.00. Licenses to search for gold cost 50 cents per area and leases \$2.00 per area, of 250 feet by 150 feet, for a term of forty years.

Though general depression has affected the coal trade elsewhere, it is only since November that its effects have been noticed in a lessened activity at the coal mines. Nova Scotia has felt the stringency less severely than might have been expected. The year for some industries has been one of arrested development, and for that reason a greater expansion, especially in the coal trade, has been prevented. A summary for the 12 months past places the mineral output of the Province at \$17,412,000. This is about \$2,000,000, in excess of the value for 1907, so that a fair degree of satisfaction is generally felt. The outlook is, however, affected by two important problems, the solution of which is looked forward to with interest. There is, first, the Privy Council decision in the Dominion Coal and Steel case, which may be announced before these words appear; and, secondly, the invasion of the St. Lawrence market by the coal companies of the

United States. This dumping process has already made inroads into Nova Scotia's natural market, and how long this American aggression will continue or what remedy will be applied to conserve the St. Lawrence coal trade to Nova Scotia is still in the future.

When a few months ago, the amount of increase in the imports of American bituminous and anthracite coal into the St. Lawrence market became known, surprise was everywhere expressed and some alarm felt lest these inroads might have a serious effect on our coal industry. There is a factor in the situation that appeals with some force to the writer. It is this: American coal men are enabled to make low contracts because owing to introduction of labor saving machinery and other causes the labor cost of a ton of coal has not increased to them. To counterbalance this Nova Scotia mines are on the seaboard—the Springhill mines being the only ones not on tidal waters, and they are but 30 miles from the shipping pier. Of course, this is no handicap in view of the long hauls that American coal companies have to contend with. Our miners are well paid, none better. If the cost of living were reduced, our miners could accept lower wages and be as well, if not better, off. What remedy is to be applied? Simply this, back to the farm! The demand for labor in the mines has been so great in the past that farmers and their sons have left the plow and the hoe to shoulder the pick and shovel. As a consequence not five per cent. of the necessaries of life consumed by the mining population is produced in the neighborhood of the mines. Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island are supplying produce to the colliery towns, which might easily be raised in Cape Breton, Pictou and Cumberland Counties. This process of draining the farm of its workers to supply mine labor has, within the past decade or two, practically depopulated some of the rural sections and helped to create the abandoned farm problem in Nova Scotia. Added to this, were the great opportunities thought to lie in the far fields of the Western plains. The lure of the West has been a seductive one and its captives are numbered by thousands.

What better remedy is there than to point out the harvest for the farmer and market gardener in the neighborhood of the mines, and, if our own sons do not return to the farms, to induce a satisfactory immigration that will take advantage of the opportunities. Thus will the