

conservationist" has estimated to exist in the whole world.

The root of the whole evil is attributed to the fact that Congress has endowed the executive departments of the Government with power to promulgate rulings that have the force of law; the consequence being that the miner, although he may have complied with all known statutory requirements, may find himself arbitrarily deprived of his property by the officials of the forestry service. A Canadian analogy holds here in the case of the western coal lands that are administered by the Department of the Interior at Ottawa.

We have indicated enough to show the purport of Mr. Stevens' address. Whilst his language is far from being dispassionate and while his attitude does not remotely resemble the judicial, yet he voices a growing belief that many blunders and not a few political sins are being committed in the name of conservation.

THE ENGINEER.

In a scholarly, polished, and eloquent address before the members of the Toronto Engineers' Club, President Falconer, of the University of Toronto, traced the evolution and the meaning of the profession of engineering. With apt allusions he illustrated the successive historic phases of the engineer's function. He was listened to with rapt attention.

Admirable in tone and in content as was President Falconer's address, there was, unhappily, one strange gap. He touched illuminatingly upon architecture; he glanced over the field of civil engineering; he referred to the electrical engineer; he mentioned the mechanical engineer. But never a word did he say of the mining engineer, whose profession is the very plinth of the whole science of engineering.

Now this was a very serious sin of omission. We do not particularly blame President Falconer. But we cannot refrain from seizing on the occasion to relieve our editorial chest.

President Falconer's historical allusions were numerous and apposite. He drew on Biblical narrative, and on the history of Greece and Rome. We marvel that in reading Holy Writ he could have missed the mining man. Time does not permit us to be specific. But President Falconer will, no doubt, remember having read of Tubal Cain, who, by implication at least, was a mining and metallurgical engineer. Is there not, also, in the book of Job, specific reference to mining? Chapter 28 is a lordly picture of mining. What, moreover, of Hiram, King of Tyre?

In fact, although sacred and profane literature is dotted with innumerable references to mining and the mining engineer, there is a singular convention on the part of orators and publicists to ignore them. The mining engineer is treated as a negligible quantity.

All the high eulogies bestowed by President Falconer upon the civil engineer were, no doubt, deserved. But

why overlook him who provides all engineers with his materials of construction? How would the railways, the canals, the buildings, the bridges, the ships, and every other product of human ingenuity be constructed had not the mining engineer, through centuries of laborious effort perfected the means of extracting ores from the mine and metals from the ore!

We suggest that President Falconer, as a salve to our wounded self-esteem, give us a stirring address on the mining engineer's relation to the world's history.

AMALGAMATED ASBESTOS.

The decision of the directors of the Amalgamated Asbestos Corporation to default payment of the interest on their consolidated bonds, came as no surprise to the public. The earnings of the Corporation could not possibly provide for a 5 per cent. payment on \$8,000,000.

There is now no other recourse than financial reorganization. While the mines are in excellent condition, the market is certainly profoundly depressed. But even were the asbestos market active, there is little ground for thinking that reorganization of the Corporation's finances could be much longer postponed.

Those who followed the early history of Amalgamated Asbestos will be given ample confirmation of the belief that far too great a load was placed upon the Corporation by the promoters. But the blame rests not altogether upon the shoulders of the promoters; a large part of it belongs to those technical men who subscribed to the original overdone prospectuses.

There is little to be gained in recriminations. Nor is it either fair or proper for those newspapers that most avidly supported the promoters to assume a hostile attitude now. On the other hand, it is desirable that the directors of the Corporation be given every assistance in reducing its financial obligations to a rational level.

It may be mentioned here that the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL will take no notice of anonymous letters. Several such, in which abuse has been heaped upon the Corporation, have reached our office.

OFFICERS FOR THE INSTITUTE

Before January 1st, 1912, all nominations for offices in the governing body of the Canadian Mining Institute, must be in the hands of the secretary.

Circumstances make it more than ordinarily important that next year's President, who, it is assumed will hold office for two successive years, be a man of outstanding reputation. Not only must he have at heart the good of the Institute, but he must possess in large degree those qualities that spell popularity. As President he will have to undertake the onerous duties of chairman and of ex-officio member of numerous com-