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JAMES J. SALMOND
President and General Manager

ALBERT E. JENNINGS
Assistant General Manager

HEAD OFFICE: 62 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO, ONT.

Telephone, Main 7404. Cable Address, "Engineer, Toronto."

Western Canada Office: 1208 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg. G. W. GOODALL, Mgr.

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THE OHIO LIEN LAW

IN Ontario within the past few months there has been a certain amount of agitation in some quarters for the adoption by the Legislature of an Act similar to the law entitled "Mechanics' and Other Liens" that is in operation in the State of Ohio. The contractors are unanimous in their opposition to the passing of such a law by any Canadian parliament, Dominion or provincial. There are a number of objectionable clauses in the "Ohio Lien Law," as it is popularly known, but the one that arouses the greatest opposition is as follows.—

"The original contractor, in order to obtain any payments from the owner, must deliver to the owner, if he or his agent can be found in the country, a sworn statement showing the name of every laborer who has not been paid in full and of every sub-contractor in his employ, and of every person furnishing material, machinery or fuel, with the amount due or to become due to such person, which statement must be accompanied by a certificate, signed by every person furnishing material, machinery or fuel, showing the amount due or to become due, and also a similar statement of every sub-contractor and of every person furnishing machinery, material or fuel; the owner is entitled to retain all amounts due sub-contractors, laborers or material men as shown by such statements; and until the statements are furnished, the contractor has no right of action against the owner."

The contractors cannot be blamed for opposing such onerous and unfair legislation. It is generally admitted that manufacturers and supply dealers should have more protection, against both contractors and owners, than they now have in many provinces (and contractors need more protection against owners), but the Ohio Lien Law is entirely too cumbersome and hampering. To relieve injustice to one class of people by imposing greater injustice upon another class, is not wise legislation.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE

IN the last official Bulletin of the Canadian Mining Institute, it is suggested that a conjoint committee be appointed representative of all the engineering professions and empowered to formulate "a comprehensive scheme of union for defence and offence."

There is already in existence a Joint Committee of Technical Organizations, but it does not appear likely that this joint committee will be allowed to be the conjoint committee proposed by the Canadian Mining Institute, in view of the following rather unusual paragraph which appears in the report of the last meeting of the Council of the Engineering Institute of Canada:—

"The consideration of Council was asked in connection with a suggestion received, that the Joint Committee of Technical Organizations was not worthy of further support or recognition. It was resolved that the principle of scattering the energies of the members of the branches was detrimental to their strength, and, consequently, further recognition or support of the Joint Committee of Technical Organizations was withdrawn. The secretary was instructed to so advise the branches."

ENGINEERING LEGISLATION

AT a meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee of the Canadian Mining Institute and the Engineering Institute of Canada, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the question of legislation is of so great importance to engineers of all branches of the profession, that it should receive very careful consideration and should have the approval of the majority of Canadian engineers before being enacted as, otherwise, it may jeopardise the future of effective legislation and defeat the objects in view. The members of the Mining Institute will therefore recommend to their Council, that legislation be opposed until it has had more mature consideration, but that the Mining Institute join hands with the Engineering Institute of Canada, in endeavoring to frame an acceptable Act."

A draft having been submitted to the Council of the Engineering Institute of Canada of a bill which the Saskatchewan Branch proposed to introduce in the legislature of that province, the Council instructed the secretary of the Institute to telegraph the branch as follows:—

"At a special meeting of Council held at your request I was instructed to advise the Saskatchewan Branch that it does not lie within the power of the Council to approve an act for submission to a legislature without the mandate of the membership at large. My communication of October second was intended to convey to your branch that Council is sympathetic towards the endeavors of your branch to draft suitable legislation and would assist in framing and submitting a suitable Act for the consideration of the membership. The action of other branches in submitting to the Council drafts of proposed Acts and discussion of the general question subsequent to the submission of your first draft, strengthen the feeling of Council that action should be deferred until all the branches have had an opportunity of expressing their views."

RESEARCH WORK IN GERMANY

WHEN considering the establishment of a Central Research Institute, the Dominion Government should bear in mind that Germany does not intend to stand still in the matter of research work, despite her failure to win the war by scientific (?) accomplishments. In a pamphlet issued by the Society of German Metallurgists and Mine Owners, for the translation of which we are indebted to the well-known English scientist, Sir Robt. Hadfield, the following paragraphs appear:—

The experiences of the war have shown most especially how necessary it is that our Fatherland be made as inde-