

The Canadian Engineer

Established 1893

A Weekly Paper for Canadian Civil Engineers and Contractors

Terms of Subscription, postpaid to any address:

One Year	Six Months	Three Months	Single Copies
\$3.00	\$1.75	\$1.00	10c.

Published every Thursday by

The Monetary Times Printing Co. of Canada, Limited

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THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

AT an annual meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada a few years ago, Prof. Haultain, of Toronto, declared that the Canadian Mining Institute represented an industry, not a profession; that it was a trade body, not a technical society; that it could never be absorbed completely by the Engineering Institute because its membership included many men who could not qualify for the Engineering Institute.

There ensued immediately a strenuous protest from many leading members of the Canadian Mining Institute. Exception was taken to Prof. Haultain's indictment on every count. But Prof. Haultain had taken a prominent part in both institutes for many years, and he viewed his subject from both standpoints. That the mining engineers generally are coming around to Prof. Haultain's opinion is evidenced by the editorial in the last issue of the Canadian Mining Journal, which says:—

"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 par-

ticular 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."

This is probably the first admission by anyone associated with the mining interests, other than Prof. Haultain, that the Mining Institute is not an engineering society. We wonder whether the Canadian Mining Institute would officially endorse this admission. If so, it would no doubt do much toward clearing up all differences of opinion between the two bodies. "It is a mistake, however, to expect that there will not be differences between the two Institutes," continues the Canadian Mining Journal. "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 unpleasanties 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?"

ENGINEERING PRIVILEGES.

ONE of the steps to be taken in the choice of a profession is the consideration of the associated privileges which one may reasonably hope to enjoy. The majority of engineering students look forward to the time when they can claim membership with at least one engineering society.

The Institution of Civil Engineers, of London, England, is the parent institution of the profession; it is certainly one of the privileges of the profession to belong to it, as it is to worthy men, and worthy men only, that its doors are opened. Formerly it was easier to obtain membership than it is to-day. At one time membership was obtained by little more than the securing of the names of a few "good men" on one's form of application. These men often knew little or nothing about the qualifications of the applicant, but signed the application because somebody else had signed it. The result was that the Institution's membership included names of some individuals who should, perhaps, have waited a little longer before applying.

To overcome this condition, the governing body of the Institution introduced a qualifying examination which eliminated those who did not possess the necessary knowledge and experience. But as there were many other similar examinations held throughout the world under the auspices of various universities, a list was compiled of those examinations which would be accepted in lieu of that held by the Institution. A number of universities outside of the British Isles are recognized in the list, including McGill University, Montreal, but no recognition is granted to the Faculty of Applied Science of the University of Toronto. It is difficult to understand the attitude of the Institution in regard to the University of Toronto. McGill University is an excellent college and well