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PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO MAYOR'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME
AT IRONTON.

Your Honor, the Mayor, and Citizens of Ironton and Gentlemen of the Institute:

It is with no small amount of embarrassment that I attempt to respond to so cordial and generous an address of welcome as the one to which we have just listened, and my embarrassment is only intensified when I look over the audience before me.

You have reason to expect from one who has the honor of presiding at the meetings of this institute a speech in

keeping with the dignity and intelligence of the gentlemen who compose it. But, Mr. Chairman, these gentlemen have honored me far beyond my ability. This is their misfortune and one greatly to be regretted, and no one feels it more keenly than myself. For the good of all I would have been glad to have shifted the responsibility onto some of the many present who could have responded far more ably than I can possibly hope to.

I am like the man General Ewing

once described as being struck with an empty wagon going down hill as not being able to unload or back up.

It may not be out of place to give you a brief and imperfect history of our institute and the objects sought to be obtained.

Nearly one third of the area of our state is underlaid with coal bearing strata, represented by about forty different veins, about 15 of which are three feet and upwards in thickness, besides vast beds of iron ore, limestone, fire clay and other minerals of great economic value. To aid in the development of these mineral resources and devise plans for the economical working of them, the protection of human life and health and to elevate the social status of those engaged in the working of them are some of the main objects aimed at to aid in this great work, we admit to our institute mining engineers, geologists, chemists, metallurgists, students in mining schools and those engaged in operating and working of mines.

The first meeting of the institute was held at the parlors of the Tod House in Youngstown, some time during the summer of 1880. This meeting was composed of our distinguished fellow citizen, the Hon. Andrew Roy; Robert S. Paul, of Akron; Hon. A. D. Fassett and myself. Mr. Fassett acted more in the capacity of a reporter for the press than a member of the institute. He did his work so ably that when the papers came out the next morning, even the proprietors of the hotel were amazed that so important an event had taken place right before their eyes without their knowing it. I confess that until after reading the papers I had not fully realized the magnitude of the occasion.

The first regular meeting was held at Columbus on January 11, 1881,

when a permanent organization was formed and regularly officered and a constitution and by laws adopted, and the Ohio Institute was a permanent organization and began to receive members from all parts of the State.

On the next January (1882) we had a very good meeting at Columbus and quite a number of excellent papers were read and discussed. We held our summer meeting that year at Nelsonville in May which was a great success in addition to having a good time. Our membership was increased about twenty.

On the adjournment of January, 1883, meeting, held at Columbus, the institute numbered 47 members, representative men from all parts of the State; your distinguished citizen, J. R. C. Brown, being one of the number. Since our organization the interest and membership has continually increased and to-day we have over 100 members.

We have met regularly at Columbus each winter, and during the summer have visited Nelsonville, Youngstown, Cleveland, Jackson and Steubenville, and everywhere that we have been the institute has been entertained in the most hospitable manner and received only the kindest words of encouragement on every hand. But nowhere have we been more generously received than we are here in your thriving city; and on behalf of the Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers, allow me to most heartily thank you for the able and nospitable manner that you have received us among you; and our desire is that our stay with you will be one of profit and pleasure to you all, and our coming will be an event long to be remembered by us. Again allow me to thank you for your kind welcome to your thriving and prosperous city, itself the exemplification and the proof of the industries we represent.