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PROF. N. W. LORD.

Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, January 17th, 1894.

7 o'clock P. M.

The convention was called to order by Prof. Lord, who said :

Members of the Institute and Ladies and Gentlemen : I am glad to welcome you here to the 14th annual meeting of The Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers. This is our annual winter meeting and I am glad to be able to state to the members that our society is in a flourishing condition ; that we have at the close of this year three great elements of success, a full membership and a full treasury, and as the papers in your hands show, a full programme. Our annual meetings are held at the capitol of the state in Columbus. This was a wise provision of our founders, as we are here at the center of government, where we can keep an eye on our friends in the State House, and see that they do the right thing by the various interest that we represent, and our past history shows that from year to year this institute has had a good deal to do with wise legislation in the interest of mining and the related industries in this state. I can speak particularly in regard to one thing it has accomplished. The school of mines of the State University owes its origin and its progressive development very largely to this institute. I think I can state on behalf of the university, that the college has paid back its debt to a certain extent by sending into the industries of the state young men trained in the sciences and the arts that lie at their foundation. Among the objects of the institute, the objects detailed in its constitution, adopted 12 or 13 years ago, is the provision that it shall be the business of the institute to improve the conditions of mining and to improve the skill shown in the development of the mineral resources of the state. I think among the means that the institute has provided for this work, no one has yielded a better return than our school of mines. It has sent out men whose business is to study and to know the best modes of developing and mining the buried treasures which we are all interested in. We will have before us at this session a paper on one of the mines of the state read by one of the graduates of the institution, and I think I can claim that he will stand as a pretty fair speci-

men of what the institution has turned out in return for the interest the society has taken in its development. Last summer, in place of the annual excursion to the mining centers, the institute determined, through its executive board, to make an excursion to Chicago, to the World's Fair. We had a fair showing of members of the institute, and the men that went, and the ladies that went with them, I think can all testify that it was an unqualified success, added to the good times that the great exhibition was bound to furnish, was the fun that the members of the institute are always bound to have when they get together.

A word in regard to the summer excursions of our institute. The present plan the Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers has adopted is to have a winter meeting at which we present papers and have discussions and a summer excursion in which the members participate, the excursion being for the purpose of inspecting some district, some institution, or some works of general interest. These summer excursions have become one of the great features of the institute and I think the present arrangement has proved itself an eminently wise one, proved itself a custom that the institute finds excellently adapted to its objects. When a society starts it always arranges to do a whole lot of things according to the constitution and by-laws, but as the society grows older it falls into customs which meet the needs and wants of its members, and it is only when it has attained such a series of customs that it becomes permanently established and successful. I think our society has reached that point at which we can claim we are a permanently established institution of the state and are permanently successful and I think it is largely due to the fact that we have adopted this plan of summer excursions. Without dwelling upon this point I wish to urge upon the members a recognition of the immense value of these summer excursions and urge them to devote time at this meeting to planning a good one for next summer, one to which we will all go.

The Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers, as I have said, has fostered education at the State University by developing the school of mines. I think it has another educational scheme on hand and that is, its summer excursion. These summer excursions are good times, good picnics, but they are more than that. I can imagine no more important thing for a body of engineers, for miners, than an annual excursion into other districts, seeing what other people are doing. It has a broadening and educating influence that cannot be overestimated in value. There is a great tendency among certain engineers to get into ruts, to establish themselves in some part of the country and fall into a line of work which seems to be about right and to become satisfied with

it and never change it. There is nothing that will shake men out of these ruts so much as our summer excursions and therefore I urge upon you the importance of always attending them.

Another feature of the institute, is the winter meeting and the papers. I think the list we have to-night on the programme in your hands, testifies to the fact that the right spirit is developing among the members. We have a long list of papers and a good list of papers. I hope every year we will have a longer list. When the members present these papers, they benefit the institute and they benefit themselves. If every member would make up his mind to have a paper for the next meeting, he would find it would direct his attention to numerous facts, to numerous matters which otherwise would escape notice. It would keep his thoughts on the progress of his art and broaden him and make him a more efficient man. Thus the function of our institute has been largely educational, and it has been a power for good in this direction throughout the length and breadth of the state. But it has its social side. We learn to know each other. Year by year as we make our excursions and as we come to our winter meetings, we extend our circle of acquaintances until we form a brotherhood of men with common interests and a common tie. We occasionally indulge in a lighter vein. Our worthy vice-president as our poet laureate keeps us from becoming too scientific and promotes a spirit of good fellowship while he immortalizes those of the members whom he selects to crown with the laurel of his efforts.

Now I don't intend to take up much time to-night. I speak of a few things which the institute has shown to be potent factors in its growth, and which are the evidences of its growth. Since our last meeting we have lost from our ranks three of our old and respected members. The institute will, undoubtedly, during its present session, take due care to see that these sad events are properly commemorated. We have with us, on our list of members and among the gentlemen that are at this meeting, a distinguished visitor from another state, and he will interest you in a paper concerning the affairs in which he has had great experience in the State of Pennsylvania. I shall first call upon the secretary, Mr. R. M. Haseltine, to give us a report of our condition, as shown by the books, and after that we will proceed with a lecture by Mr. Lord, of the University on "Alaska". I will now call on Mr. Haseltine for his report. (Applause.)