CIM's Annual Meeting

by Edward Robie, Secretary Emeritus, AIME

Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's Annual Meeting, held in Quebec City March 20-22, proved one of the high spots in the long series of successful meetings of the CIM. The technical program, the social events, the attendance, the meeting place, and the weather combined to make it a most rewarding affair.

A total of 24 technical sessions were arranged for the three-day meeting, with 96 papers on the program. Metallurgy, including extractive metallurgy and mineral dressing with five sessions, physical metallurgy with two, and iron and steel production with two, dominated the meeting. Geology and geophysics had five sessions of five papers each, metal mining three sessions, industrial minerals three, coal one, petroleum and natural gas one, and two sessions were devoted to general subjects and joint sessions. The attendance taxed the capacity of some of the small meeting rooms. Discussion often had to be postponed or eliminated to give time for a more complete presentation of the papers.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Attendance totaled approximately 1600, including close to 500 ladies, attracted no doubt by the charming atmosphere of the Chateau Frontenac, the excellent neighboring restaurants, of which the Kerhulu and Vendome were outstanding, and the many interesting spots in the historic city. Industrial companies in the mining and metallurgical field outdid themselves in providing refreshment, not only in individual rooms, but in daily public receptions before each luncheon and before the annual dinners on Tuesday night and the annual ball on Wednesday. The dinner on Tuesday night featured the presentation of major Institute honors, including the awarding of the Selwyn G. Blaylock Medal to AIME President R. R. McNaughton. The Medal is awarded to a member of the Canadian Institute for distinguished service to Canada through exceptional achievement in the field of mining, metallurgy, or geology.

Mr. McNaughton is manager of the metallurgical div. of Consoli-

dated Mining and Smelting Co., of Canada, Ltd. The citation accompanying the award reads, "In recognition of his numerous contributions to the smelting and refining of lead and zinc in particular, and to the production of many of the metals occurring in the Sullivan ore bodies and including his latest contribution in the production of iron in commercial quantities from Sullivan mine tailings."

Before the ball, the Gardner-Denver Co. invited what must have been a majority of registrants to a buffet supper that was the most outstanding affair of its kind that we have ever attended.

The variety show on Monday night for gentlemen and ladies presented four acts that were among the best that we have ever seen at a CIM or AIME meeting. Following former practice, the ladies and gentlemen had separate annual dinners, a practice which lends itself better to the limited capacity of most hotel ballrooms, and permits more interesting programming for each group. Several pre-session movies of general interest were the prizes for early attendance.

Some had hesitated to drive their own cars to the meeting, fearing stormy weather at that time of the year in the North, but each day was sunny, and all Quebec and Ontario main roads were free of snow and ice. Next year's annual CIM meeting will be held in Ottawa, presumably at the usual time, in April, which was not possible this year. CIM's affairs for the year will be in the capable hands of the new president, J. B. (Jim) Mawdsley, head of the Dept. of Geological Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan, and C. (Jerry) Gerow, the secretary, of Montreal, and his assistant, E. G. Tapp.

Of general interest was a most informative talk by Prof. Rice of Toronto, on what is going on in Soviet Russia that mining engineers should ponder over. Large expenditures are made for research in various mining fields which were detailed by the speaker. He was impressed by the tremendous significance attached to the mineral industries in terms of prestige accorded to workers in the field,

and the rate of investment in capital works. There are 40,000 geologists, of Bachelor level or higher, engaged in mineral exploration.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

A panel discussion on *What's New in Materials Handling* was featured at the Industrial Minerals sessions. This group is to be distinguished from the common herd at CIM meetings: its members have a small red label pasted over their registration badges and it was the only division that held a separate luncheon on Tuesday!

Mineral dressing had somewhat less attention than at some previous meetings, but there were papers describing the Levack mill and sand plant, the Quebec Government pilot plant, copper activation of pyrite, and the use of sulfur dioxide in flotation.

In the field of metallurgy, most attention was given to the subject of extractive metallurgy, with a special forum on roasting. Papers on zinc roasting practice at Flin Flon, suspension roasting at Trail, fluid bed practice at Red Lake, practices at Copper Cliff, magnetic roasting and two papers on roasting in the iron and steel industry were presented. Presumably all of them will be published in the CIM Bulletin. One paper reviewed the practice on aluminum smelting; another described the leach-precipitation-flotation practice at the Rosita mine in Nicaragua, and the Keyes autoxidation plant used to produce acid for the leach. The research work being done on improving the quality of the iron ore shipped from the Labrador-New Quebec area proved an interesting subject for a paper. Another discussed the development in Canada of structural steels of higher strength and improved resistance to brittle fracture.

Four papers were presented at the physical metallurgy session: *An Investigation of Spalling and Crater Formation by Hyper-Velocity Projectiles*; *Studies of the Low Temperature Tensile Properties of Some Transition Metals and Alloys*; *Properties of Cast Steel Produced from Direct Iron*; and *Production of High Purity Iron by the Floating Zone Method*.