Rossiter Worthington Raymond (1840-1918)

Among those who attended the first meeting a man whose support the originators felt was needed to give gravitas to the organization, Rossiter Raymond, 31-year-old Professor of Ore Deposits at Lafayette College, which in 1868 had conferred on him an honorary doctorate. He was editor of the E&MJ, which was the media arm of A.I.M.E. until 1877, under Raymond and his successor, Rothwell. His New York City office became the unofficial center for the mining engineering fraternity. He was President of A.I.M.E. 1872 to 1875 and Secretary from 1884 until 1912.
Rossiter Raymond is one of only two founders in the National Mining Hall of Fame. He was honored because he:

“exerted a unique influence on young mining engineers through his exceptional writings and editing.

In 1867, he became editor of the American Journal of Mining (now Engineering and Mining Journal). For 23 years his powerful influence was felt at the journal, and the publication shone above all others in the industry.

He served as United States Commissioner of Mining Statistics from 1868 until 1876. Particularly significant among his many writings were the eight reports: Statistics of Mines and Mining in the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains.”
He lectured on mining geology at Lafayette College and later, on mining law at Columbia, and for 20 years was consulting engineer for Cooper, Hewitt & Company.

In his late 50s, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1898. His writing on mining law was clearly phrased, and his expert testimony in suits over mining rights helped clarify this perplexing subject.

Through his long service to the American Institute of Mining Engineers, of which he was a founder, he elevated ideals for technical and professional societies in America and introduced European geological writings to American readers. He was highly respected in his field and because of his dedication to the industry and the American Institute of Mining Engineers, he was known as the “Grand Old Man of the Institute.”
At the February 1919 A.I.M.E. Annual Meeting, the Institute paid honor to the memory of Raymond, “who was for 47 years the guiding genius of the Institute.” Henry Sturgis Drinker, the President of Lehigh University, described him as "one of the most remarkable cases of versatility that our country has ever seen—sailor, soldier, engineer, lawyer, orator, editor, novelist, story-teller, poet, biblical critic, theologian, teacher, chess-player—he was superior in each capacity. What he did, he always did well."

In 1920 A.I.M.E. published a 95-page memorial, which contained a “brief biography” -- four pages in length.
“A circular...has been prepared and signed by Messrs. Eckley B. Coxe, of Jeddo, and R. P. Rothwell and Martin Coryell, of Wilkes-Barre, three mining engineers whose reputation is a guaranty that the proposition they have issued is intended in good faith to promote the interests of their profession, and not, like some others of the kind, to favor the schemes of adventurers, or foist insignificance into notoriety.

We sincerely hope that this movement may be successful. It certainly promises to supply a great want of American engineering.”

-- Rossiter Raymond, E&MJ, Feb 7, 1871