

THE MINING INSTITUTE OF B.C.

ON Tuesday, Jan. 18th, a meeting of the B.C. Association of Mining Engineers was convened in Vancouver. The meeting was held in the Hotel Badminton, at 3 p.m., when it was decided, owing to the non-arrival of several of the up-country members, to adjourn until 8 p.m. of the same evening.

The meeting was then held under the auspices of the Federated Institute of Mining Engineers of Canada, with which the B.C. branch is affiliated. The chair was taken by Mr. William Blakemore, manager of the Crow's Nest Company's coal mines; Mr. Bell, Secretary of the Federated Institute being present. After a welcome from the newly elected Mayor of the City, Mr. J. F. Garden, and Mr. A. Williams, M.P., Mr. Blakemore addressed the meeting on the useful possibilities of the Association, and particularly on the advantages of affiliation with the Federated Society.

A paper by Mr. Hedley, of the Hall Mines Smelter, was then read, on "the possibilities of smelting in British Columbia." The writer declared that lead smelting offered some difficulties for any plant possible with the present production of the lead mines. He was firmly convinced that a blast furnace matting plant would handle the ores of Rossland camp very economically, and to great advantage, though the difficulties were not few. As yet they did not know what the Rossland mines were capable of producing. Wild statements had been made on this head, but he believed that a 500-ton plant, erected at such a point and run so economically that it could make a smelting rate of \$7.00 a ton, f. o. b. Rossland, would soon have to increase its capacity, as the figure would leave a profit to the smelter. There were far greater smelting possibilities in the Boundary Creek district. There the variety of ore was greater, and an absolutely self-fluxing ore was obtainable. Once transportation was provided, development would follow and reduction works would be established. Should the coal, on development, prove to be of good coking quality, and in sufficient quantity, a plant with a larger capacity would treat ore as cheaply as anywhere on the continent. Even bringing in coke at a cost of \$12.00 per ton, laid down, he had no hesitation in saying that a 500-ton plant (two furnaces), using steam power, would smelt at a cost not to exceed \$2.75 per ton of ore. This, of course, would produce matte. With East Kootenay he was not familiar, but he believed that the range between Kootenay Lake and Fort Steele would produce ores that, after concentration, would materially assist smelting operations in the country. West, again, of Boundary Creek in the Okanagan country, he had seen evidence of ores in veins of unusual size that would yield handsomely. The Coast, too, if reports be true, had its ores of character suitable for smelting, and exceptionally situated for economical treatment.

At Mr. Waterman's suggestion the discussion of this paper was laid over. Mr. Blakemore, however, first stated that as regarded Mr. Headley's statement that coke might be laid down at \$12 a ton, the Crow's Nest Coal Company hoped to give Rossland coke at a very much lower price than that.

Mr. Bell then announced that a meeting of the Federated Institute would be held in Ottawa, on March 2nd, 3rd and 4th, when these papers would be still further discussed. Mr. Raymond of New York, Secretary of the American Institute, probably the greatest authority on the subject in America, had promised his attendance. The meeting broke up at 10 o'clock.

At 11 o'clock the next morning a business meeting of the local association was held. After considerable discussion it was decided to change the name of the Association to that of the Mining Institute of British Columbia. A number of new members were elected. The accounts of last year having been passed under protest from Mr. Waterman and others to the effect that it was eminently desirable that members not paying their subscriptions should be allowed but very short grace, or else their names struck from the list of membership. The general meeting then resolved itself into a committee to discuss changes in the Constitution.

A paper on "Cyanidation of Tailings and Ores," by Mr. A. S. Edgecombe, was next read by Mr. Monckton. On the motion of Mr. Bell, the paper was filed till all the members had had an opportunity of reading it.

Several papers on the programme were printed and circulated, but will be read and discussed in Montreal in March next. Among these were a paper contributed by Mr. Howard West, of New Denver, on "Mining machinery in the Slokan;" by Mr. J. C. Gwillim, of Slokan City, on "Some West Kootenay Ore Bodies," and by Mr. A. H. Holdich, of Nelson, entitled "Odd Notes on Mining." We propose to refer fully to these papers in next month's RECORD.

A paper by Mr. Loring, of the Josie mine, Rossland, on "Mining Law and its Bearing on the Development of Mines

and Mining Districts," was read by Mr. G. F. Monckton, the Secretary, in conjunction with a paper of his own on the same subject. The substance of the two papers may be briefly summarised as follows:

Mr. Loring objected to staking by means of a centre line only. He considered that corner posts ought to be inserted, and line stakes. Locations 1,500 feet square were, in his opinion, too large. He considered that a locator should have from 60 to 90 days to prove the value of a claim, but unless he could show something then, he should not be allowed to retain it. Mr. Monckton considered the free miner's licence an unfair and unnecessary tax. He thought assessment work should be done within six months. He agreed with Mr. Loring as to the necessity of corner posts and reducing the size of claims. He suggested that some official should be appointed to make flying visits unannounced, to claims, to examine the assessment work and was in favor of compelling locators to cut down their stakes if claims were not recorded.

Mr. Waterman was of opinion that a surveyor should survey claims before they were recorded, and thought it should be compulsory that assessment work—not necessarily to the extent of \$100.00—should also be performed before recording. The surveyor should take note of the assessment work.

It was decided to form a committee of seven before the sessions of the Association closed, to report on the mining laws.

SOME UP-COUNTRY CRITICISMS.

THE BRITISH AMERICA CORPORATION.

WAS there ever such a preposterous document as the prospectus of the British America Corporation? Nevertheless it succeeded in drawing nearly five millions sterling out of the pockets of the British investor, about three times the amount of capital asked for. Why on earth the composers of this prospectus included in it the attractions of claims they did not own, other claims which do not exist and designate as gold mines a group of untried prospects passes the ordinary man's understanding. Such things tend to draw suspicion upon the *bona fides* of the people responsible for them. With such trump cards as the names of Lords Dufferin and Loch to conjure with it was unnecessary to put anything else upon the papers at all. Only let it be known that these two peers were going into a mining speculation and that they invited the public to go in with them, paying a million and a half for the privilege and the money would have been forthcoming at once.

Meanwhile the agents of the company have been freely buying up properties at Rossland. The Columbia and Kootenay was annexed for \$300,000, Mr. Heinze having just dropped his bond on it. The second payment of \$35,000 was made on the Josie, \$15,000 having been paid down at the time the option was granted. These two purchases together with the Nickel Plate, the No. 1, and the Great Western are said to involve the amount of \$1,050,000.

THAT ALLEGED OPTION ON THE LE ROI.

When the prospectus first reached this country and mentioned the Le Roi as one of the properties acquired, Colonel Turner, of Spokane, one of the directors and brother of the president of the company, indignantly denied that the corporation had even the shadow of an option over it. The *Spokesman-Review*, which was responsible for an interview containing this statement, now says that it is admitted that an option was given by Senator Turner and Colonel Peyton in London about the first of November. It is strange that neither Colonel Turner nor any of the officials connected with the company should be aware of this two months afterwards. It is a little thin. The price at which the Le Roi is to be acquired is said to be five millions of dollars. Add this to the price paid for the other properties mentioned above, and there