

the former upon the able manner in which the arrangements had been carried out. As Minister of Mines he also extended greetings to the delegates who had come from the south of the line. As has been noted at a recent similar Convention it was pleasing to observe the interest manifested by the mining men of the neighboring states in the development of the minerals of British Columbia. Their co-operation was welcomed and appreciated. They had fought shoulder to shoulder in France in the settlement of the great problem of the ages, namely, the maintenance of democracy, of free government by the people, and now were prepared to face shoulder to shoulder, the problem, almost of equal importance, of restoring settled conditions and developing the illimitable resources of America.

There is, as you are all aware, a condition of unrest in Canada, as well as in other countries, at present. I want to say that this is not an uncommon manifestation after the disturbance of such a war as that through which we have just passed. Rather it is what might have been expected, inasmuch as it has been the experience in Great Britain, although perhaps not quite to such an extent, after previous and comparatively recent wars. In my opinion it will not be very long before the life of the country becomes normal. Certainly it must regain its equilibrium if we are to take up the work of our daily lives and continue along the lines of industrial development and general progress. Looking back it is gratifying to remember that the British Empire always has emerged from conflicts greater and stronger than ever before. Moreover, the various outlying parts of our Empire, through the trials of the past four years, are not more closely welded and more determined to stand together than at any time in their history.

Provincial Government Aims to Stabilize Industry.

The aim of the Provincial Government, to pursue the subject of conditions and their settlement, is to establish the best of relationship between Capital and Labor. Only by so doing can it be hoped that the best results be obtained in the development of our natural resources and this refers in especial to the great milling industry. The mining business is more or less a precarious one and it is appreciated that capital must have all reasonable assurance that it will receive consideration when placed in legitimate enterprise. When in New York recently I had many inquiries as to the situation in this province and the prospects for profitable investment and am therefore certain that, as soon as the industrial unrest to which I have referred and of which we all are so painfully aware subsides, we shall be able to take up the work confident that ample capital will be available. It is a matter of outside comment that the mining laws of British Columbia are fair and just, and of such a character as to encourage the capitalist to find in the development of its minerals as safe a field for investment as is to be found anywhere. In the matter of taxation I may say that the policy of the government is to base its assessment to a constantly greater degree on net incomes alone. At present, unfortunately, there are not enough considerable net incomes to make this possible and to pay the bills. That, however, is what we have in mind and those of us who are complaining of high taxation should remember that it is still higher in the adjacent United States.

Government Ore-Testing Plant.

While in Ottawa I took up with the Hon. M. Bur-

rell, Minister of Mines, the matter of the establishment in British Columbia of an Ore Testing Plant.

It is not necessary for me to say much to the mining men of the Nelson District of the necessity for such an installation. There has been an agitation for one here for many years. Mr. Burrell informed me that it was the Government's intention to begin work on such a plant, the required finances having been provided by the Dominion Parliament. It was undecided at the time whether it would be placed at Nelson or the Coast, it would be proper that it should be made an adjunct of the University of British Columbia. Personally I should have preferred that the province have a School of Mines, but we have embarked on a more ambitious enterprise, namely, the establishment of a University that will be a credit to this great western country. But I know of the difficulties experienced by mining operators in this section because of the lack of such facilities for the determination of what class of mill should be provided for the treatment of their various kinds of ore and there is no doubt that an ore-testing plant is a necessity in this district.

It is interesting, in touching on the complexity of some of our ores and the consequent difficulty experienced in effecting full recovery of their values, to recall a statement made in Nelson a few weeks ago in the presence of the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Mr. Beatty, by Mr. J. J. Warren, the General Manager of the Canadian Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company. He stated that Mr. Blaylock, of the company's metallurgical staff, and his assistants had discovered a process by which silver, lead, and zinc can be recovered from the Sullivan Mine Ore. He also is reported to have said that the problem of the treatment of the low grade gold-copper ores of the Rossland Mines had been solved and that within a short time the Rossland Mines of the Company would be turning out between 2,000 and 5,000 tons of ore daily.

I sincerely trust that I have correctly interpreted the purport of these statements. The first should mean much to the operators of properties, of which there are not a few with ore similar generally to that of the Sullivan Mine. The second should result in the bringing to the historic mining camp of Rossland that prosperity which she had enjoyed for so many years and which we all are interested in seeing continued.

In referring to this improved process I may say that while in Brooklyn recently I was interested in witnessing in operation a new flotation process, known as the alkaline process. The experiments appeared to show that oil could be satisfactorily supplanted by alkali, by the method for which patents have been secured. Those controlling this process have informed me that they are coming to British Columbia to demonstrate it in the treatment of some of our complex ores, and it will be interesting to watch the results of this work.

Iron and Steel Industry in B.C.

With respect to the Iron and Steel Industry to which as Minister of Mines I have devoted much attention I may say that we have on the Coast and elsewhere large deposits of magnetite ores. These are of exceptional purity. We have been handicapped by the lack of hematite and for that reason I was struck with a specimen of red hematite in the Nelson Exhibit. I have given instructions to the District Engineer to examine the property from which this sample was taken and to report fully. As to what has been done,