

ten days, so will confine myself to a brief address that will outline the policy of the Association. You are not here to listen to long speeches, you are here for most important business.

"Gentlemen.—I congratulate you upon the favourable auspices under which you meet here to-day. Your prompt response to the call for a Miners' Convention proves conclusively that you are here to make a united and determined effort to better the conditions surrounding the mining industry, and to encourage the development of the vast mineral resources of the Province.

"You are here to-day, gentlemen, for the purpose of organizing a Provincial Mining Association, the object of which will be to encourage and foster the development of the mining industry, which must be considered the paramount industry of the Province.

"The Association, as I understand it, will not be a technical one, concerning itself with the science and practice of mining; nor a commercial and financial one, concerning itself with mining properties and investments; nor should it have anything to do with labour problems, or interfere in any way with labour unions. Most of the mining organizations of the world have been formed for these and similar purposes (with the exception of the California Miners' Association which has attained such wonderful success.)

"This Association from its beginning should make united efforts to secure legislation in behalf of the whole mining industry, and otherwise promote and protect the legal rights and privileges of miners, prospectors, mine owners, and mining investors.

"In all other matters of general importance, it should represent the whole mining interest, and express its policy, and this will be the second association organized in the world in the general interest of the mining industry.

"It should represent the concentrated influence of the population of the Province directly and indirectly interested in the industry of mining. Its influence will be strongly felt in the halls of Parliament and the Provincial Legislature.

"Through being composed of men representative of the best ability and character in the British Columbia mining field, by adopting conservative measures and conciliatory methods, and working with energy to secure its ends, it will attract and maintain the confidence and respect of the people. It will do much to improve the present depressed condition of the industry and restore confidence in the legitimate mining investor, who is required to assist in placing the mineral indus-

try of the Province on the basis for large and profitable production.

"I feel confident, gentlemen, that the Association you will organize to-day will maintain its vitality so long as there is mining done in the Province of British Columbia.

"The success of the Association will depend upon the basis upon which it will be organized, so I urge upon you to be careful to organize upon a carefully laid foundation. If this is done, the Association cannot fail to be a grand success, and general prosperity will surely result." (Applause.)

MR. CHAIRMAN.—Now, gentlemen, you have authorized a committee to sit on By-laws and Constitution. I think you had better now proceed to name your committee.

Moved by Capt. Thompson, and seconded by Mr. Lugin, that the appointment of the Constitution and By-law Committee rest with the chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—You place the chair in rather a difficult position; with over two hundred fine men before me it is rather a difficult task.

A Voice — That is what we put you there for. (Laughter.)

MR. CHAIRMAN.—I will appoint Mr. C. D. Rand, D. W. Higgins, J. B. Hobson, Chris Foley, A. C. Galt, Hon. Senator Reid, S. S. Taylor, K.C., W. S. Drewry, J. Stables, M. P.P., and A. C. Flum-erfelt.

Moved by Mr. E. B. Kirby, seconded by Mr. Townsend, that a committee be appointed to prepare resolutions to submit to this Convention at its session to-morrow morning, and that this same committee, since it consists of ten, be appointed to prepare these resolutions.

MR. DEAN — I move that that Committee on Resolutions be formed by a representative from each of the mining districts.

Carried.

MR. WILLIAMS — I move that the vote be reconsidered, as otherwise the committee would be too cumbersome.

CAPT. LIVINGSTON THOMPSON.—I beg to move that the Committee on Resolutions consist of ten, and that it shall be appointed by the chair.

MR. A. C. GALT.—Of course, we are all very much interested in getting through this as speedily and promptly as possible. Not for the reason that Dr. Sinclair has given us this morning, that he wishes to escape from Victoria and not spend his money here; but we feel there is a great deal of important business to be brought before the Convention. Now, with regard to the gentlemen appointed on the Committee on Resolutions, it struck me at the time as being a very large number, and I would suggest that the matter be left in the hands of a smaller number, because it will be open for us to



Mr A. L. Belyea, of Victoria, Secretary.