

Mining Convention at Revelstoke, B. C.

The annual Northwest International Mining Convention of 1918, which was attended by delegates representative of the mining men of Washington, Idaho, and Montana as well as the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, was held at Revelstoke, B.C., on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th of July. It was one of the most outstanding assemblages of its kind in point of attendance, the high standard of addresses and of the general discussion, the enthusiasm with which the idea of co-operation, regardless of the National boundary, was endorsed, the very evident desire of all to assist in paving the way to further progress in the development of the mining resources of the North country, and, last but not the least notable, the splendid entertainment furnished the visitors by the citizens of Revelstoke.

One of the features of the opening session was the occupancy of the chair by Mrs. Ralph Smith, the first woman member of the Legislature of British Columbia, and the first of her sex to preside over the deliberations of such an organization. In thanking the delegates Mrs. Smith said that she appreciated the honor because it was a recognition of the right of womankind to a more prominent and influential part in shaping the policies of governing and semi-governing bodies of the country. She trusted that the Convention would follow up such resolutions as might be passed by action to the end that the mineral resources of the two nations represented might be more fully developed.

Mr. Alex McRae was chairman of the Executive Committee in charge; Mr. W. J. Coulthard, vice-chairman; Mr. F. B. Hill, secretary; Mr. L. A. Howson, assistant secretary; Mr. K. G. McRae, treasurer; and Messrs. W. A. Anstie, H. McKinnon, B. R. Atkins, A. Johnson, W. R. Grubbe, and M. H. Lister, and Dr. W. H. Sutherland, the latter being the member of the legislature for Revelstoke. Through their efforts the Convention programme was prepared and a mineral exhibit was assembled comprising samples from practically every known British Columbia mining camp. The Canadian Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. contributed a special display of the products of its smeltery. Mr. T. O. Bibb was in charge of the exhibition.

Mr. A. G. Langley on Prospects.

Mr. A. G. Langley, Provincial Resident Mining Engineer for the Revelstoke District, gave the first address, the subject being "Discovery and Development of Prospects." He said that the District had been prospected for gold, silver, lead and other minerals to some extent, but there was much to be accomplished. He sketched mining activity from the "eighties" in the Big Bend, Trout Lake, Ainsworth and other mining camps. Emphasis was laid on the importance, when a good find was located, of thoroughly prospecting the adjacent sections and valuable hints were given with reference to the finding of ores peculiar to the Kootenays of British Columbia. Dealing with development the speaker stated that the prospector and miner should not crosscut his course until he finds himself justified by his original findings. Too much work should not be done until it is definitely established that the ore is likely to be sufficiently valuable to warrant the expenditure of labor and money. Mr. Langley thought special attention should be paid to the development of

minerals especially required for war purposes and deprecated "wild-catting," asserting that mining, if carried out along proper lines, was a good investment.

Mr. Bruce White on Resources of Revelstoke District.

Mr. Bruce White, of Sandon, B.C., chairman of the Western Section of the Canadian Mining Institute, discussed "Geology and Mineral Resources of the Revelstoke District." Declaring that there were greater varieties of geological formations in this section than in any other part of British Columbia he said that even the rare metal, tin, was found in pegmatite rock on the headquarters of McDougall Creek. This pegmatite was an altered granite and quartz mixture and was of the pre-Cambrian age. Tungsten was likely to be found in this vicinity or might be associated with the tin in the form of scheelite. In the Trout Lake district manganese was in evidence while molybdenum, another war metal was found in several places along the Arrow Lakes in the altered granite formation but very little work had been done on them. The Big Bend Country, north of Revelstoke, had been well-known for over fifty years, its placer mining having first brought it into prominence. The speaker referred briefly to the Trout Lake and Lardeau District and its mineral riches and concluded by expressing the opinion that the Revelstoke District's possibilities were not realized and that all that was necessary to bring about notable development were men and capital.

Hon. John Hart on Taxation of Mines.

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, took for his text "Taxation, as it affects the Mining Industry." He said, in part:

"For the benefit of those of you who have not had experience with British Columbia taxation of mines, I might state that until 1896 the output of mines was made a subject of personal property tax. In 1896 an amendment to the Taxation Act was passed placing mines and mineral in a separate class of property. The amendment stated that there shall be assessed, levied and collected from every person owning, working or leasing a mine, a tax of one per cent. on the assessed value of ore raised from the land, the value of the ore to be determined by smelter returns.

"In 1900 a further amendment was passed to the Act making the rate two per cent. on the ore produced, providing, however, that all ore producing mines not yielding a market value of \$5,000, and on placer or dredging not producing a gross value of \$2,000 in any one year shall be entitled to a refund of half the tax paid in the case of ore mines and of the whole tax in case of placer and dredging mines. The tax imposed by this amendment was in substitution for all taxes upon the land and upon personal property used in the working of said mines.

"In 1901 there was a further amendment stating that the owner of a mine shall be exempted from payment of income tax from income on mines. In 1902 a further amendment was put through to the effect that the gross output of placer or dredging mines to the value of \$2,000 should be exempt from taxation.

"In 1903 an amendment was carried, repealing the portion of the Act exempting mines from income tax; but substituting a clause that, in addition to exempting ore mines from income tax, coal mines also should be exempt from the income levy.