

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE ANNUAL

Use of Nickel Coins Urged—O. E. S. Whiteside is President for 1920—Natural Resources Being Depleted

THE 22nd annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute was held in Toronto, March 8 to 10. D. H. McDougall, president, occupied the chair at the opening, but following the election of officers the new president, O. E. S. Whiteside, of Coleman, Alta., took charge.

In his presidential address Mr. McDougall pointed out Canada's situation with regard to the three basic material requirements of a nation—coal, iron and wood. Our coal deposits, he said, did not include anthracite, except in small quantities; our iron ores were of very low iron content and development depended upon the advance of science to a large extent; our timber resources were rapidly vanishing, and Canada's position in this regard was indeed alarming. As an offset to this he emphasized Canada's "strategic" superiority mineralogically in her possession of the world's supply of nickel, cobalt and asbestos.

Addresses on Mining Subjects

Thomas W. Gibson presented a paper on Ontario mineral production, which, in 1919, exceeded that of 1913 by \$4,349,802. R. E. Hore, consulting geologist, urged greater government publicity as to the exact conditions and prospects in mining in Ontario. W. H. Collins delivered an address on "Iron Ranges of Michipicoten District, Ontario," and Major Percy Barbour spoke on mining engineering in the United States. The members were shown slides illustrating the entire workings of the plant of the International Nickel Company at Sudbury, Ont., and moving pictures of underground operations at the Cobalt silver fields and also of the operations at the Alfred peat bog. J. C. Miller, general superintendent of the International concern at Sudbury, explained his slides to the audience, while the movies exhibited were Ontario government films.

D. B. Dowling, government geologist, emphasized the fact that Canada's future as an oil producer rests with the northwest. The geological conditions found in the Peace River district, he pointed out were different from those in Manitoba. M. Y. Williams of the geological survey described gas and oil prospects in Ontario. The effect which a deepening of the St. Lawrence would have in making transportation of fuel from the maritime provinces to central Canada was also discussed.

Advantages of Nickel Coins

C. E. Macdonald, of the International Nickel Company, urged the use of nickel for coins. Bronze coins, he said, are easily counterfeited, which rendered them unsuitable for coins of high value. Aluminum coins had also been tried in various parts of the British empire, but had been found wanting, and had had to be replaced in two years. German silver, cobalt and nickel alloy had all been tried, with little success. The silver coins at present in use had many defects, the speaker stated. Over a period of forty-five years, Mr. Macdonald said, the United Kingdom had withdrawn 30 per cent. of the total issue of coins for that period. Though of good appearance, silver coins had several drawbacks, not the least of these being their affinity to sulphur, which causes them to turn black. The ideal metal for the coinage in the opinion of the speaker, was nickel, as it met all the necessary requirements, and made very remote the danger of counterfeiting. Apart from the sentimental reasons attached to the use of a metal typically Canadian, many other advantages would accrue from its use.

At the close of Mr. Macdonald's address, a resolution was passed "that the Canadian Mining Institute go on record as recommending to the government that the metal employed in the manufacture of the coinage of Canada be changed to nickel at an early date."

Other addresses were "Lost Placers of Ontario," by Professor A. P. Coleman; "Recent Developments in Northern Ontario," by J. G. McMillan; "Our Mining Industry," by Hon. Henry Mills, minister of mines for Ontario. Mr. Mills

said that there are four lines along which he would like to see the industry advance, and these were more exploration, greater assistance to scientific research, more assistance to capital, and more co-operation between labor and capital. That they had made comparatively little progress in mining science during the last few years was the opinion of the speaker, as the efforts of science had been for the most part turned on destructive lines. The harmonious working of labor and capital was also urged by the minister, if the best results of the mining industry were to be obtained, as the one could not get along without the other. Thousands of miles of mine land are yet to be explored, he stated, and \$10,000 has been set aside in the government estimates this year to assist in the prospecting of this new land.

The following officers for the coming year were elected: President, O. E. S. Whiteside; vice-presidents, British Columbia, E. E. Campbell; Manitoba, W. J. Dick; Quebec, H. Y. Russel; Nova Scotia, G. D. McDougall.

WESTERN BOARDS OF TRADE CONVENTION

At the preliminary meeting of board of trade representatives held in Brandon on February 27 and 28, Calgary was selected as the city for a convention to be held about May 15. The following subjects were chosen for the consideration of the convention:

1. Railway policies. (a) Railway boards with western representation. (b) Equalization of freight rates. (c) Railway service. (d) Development policy.
2. Development of foreign trade via the Pacific routes.
3. General development of the natural resources of western Canada. (a) Coal trade. (b) Minerals and iron. (c) Lumbering and pulp industries. (d) Oil.
4. Trade conditions with British West Indies.
5. Colonization of western Canada.
6. Housing and building problems.
7. Development of inter-provincial trade in western Canada.
8. The Canadian Deep Waterways and Power Association.
9. Oriental ownership of lands in western Canada.
10. Uniform provincial business legislation.
11. Subject of Canadian merchant marine and Armstrong bill.

HAIL AND PLATE GLASS INSURANCE

Several amendments to the Manitoba Mutual Hail and Plate Glass Insurance Act are contained in a bill introduced at the present session of the legislature. One requires that directors be residents of the province and members of the company for the time they hold office. Each member of the company is to be entitled to one vote, so long as his payments are not in arrears. Where a policy is issued for more than one year, the premiums may be accepted in advance.

Reserve funds are to be invested "either in debentures or other securities of the Dominion of Canada or of this province, or in municipal debentures, or in other securities in which trustees may invest trust money, or may remain in a chartered bank on deposit at interest, and that twenty-five thousand dollars of such reserve fund or such securities to the extent of that sum shall be deposited, or any part thereof shall be returned to the company to whose credit it stands, by the provincial treasurer only on the production of a certificate from the superintendent of insurance that in his opinion such return is necessary for the purpose of enabling the company to meet its losses in any year in which the revenues of the company are not sufficient to meet its liabilities. The company having such deposit to its credit as aforesaid, shall be entitled to be credited with interest earned thereon or on any of such securities deposited with the provincial treasurer and except in cases with respect to which it may be otherwise provided by the lieutenant-governor-in-council, so long as any company's deposit is unimpaired and no notice of any final judgment or order to the contrary is served upon the treasurer, the interest upon securities forming the deposit shall be handed over to the company when received by him."