

**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF MINES.**

This important new Provincial organization was duly instituted on Tuesday last at a representative meeting held at the Hotel Vancouver, in this city. Dr. Selwyn, F. R. S., presided. Mr. F. S. Taggart, as acting secretary, read the report of the provisional committee, recommending the establishment of the Chamber. Many letters were then read endorsing the proposal, and the suggested constitution and articles of association were next briefly discussed by Mr. J. C. Fergusson, who desired the same voting power for associate as for other members. The suggested change of the constitution and articles was not, however, made and on the motion of Mr. Hugh Keefer, seconded by Mr. C. F. Law, it was unanimously resolved that the report of the provisional committee and the articles of association presented by that committee be adopted and approved as the constitution of the British Columbia Chamber of Mines. On the further motion of Messrs. O Plunkett and W. Pellew-Harvey applications for representative and associate membership were made by and received from most of the gentlemen present, twenty-five signing as representative members at a subscription of \$25 per annum and five as associate members at \$5 per annum. The Hon. C. H. Mackintosh and Mr. W. A. Carlyle, Provincial mineralogist, though not present, had previously also applied to become representative members of the Chamber.

The Chairman then congratulated the Chamber on its evidently excellent prospects and stated that he expected the Chamber to establish a museum which would contain samples of the ores and metaliferous products of this great Province, which stretched from the 49th parallel almost to Klondike. He declared that in going to Klondike people were passing over a greater gold country in which they could work under far less rigorous and vastly more pleasant climatic conditions than in the Yukon.

The election of officers was the next business. It was first suggested that at this meeting only seven of the eleven members who are to form the executive committee should be elected; the remaining four to be chosen when more members had been elected. After some discussion it was, however, decided to elect the full committee, taking care to include several outside members. Only representative members were eligible for appointment. The following gentlemen were nominated: Mr. W. A. Carlyle, Rossland; Mr. H. Cohen, Victoria; Mr. William White, Revelstoke; Mr. Ben. Douglas, New Westminster; and Dr. Selwyn, Dr. Bell-Irving, and Messrs. Barclay Bonthron, A. St. G. Hamersley, C. C. Bennett, H. Abbot, O. Plunkett, J. M. Buxton, W. J. Waterman, C. F. Law, and F. S. Taggart, all of Vancouver.

A ballot was taken, which resulted in the election

of the following eleven gentlemen as the first executive committee of the British Columbia Chamber of Mines: Messrs. W. A. Carlyle, W. Pellew-Harvey, W. White, H. Abbot, H. Cohen, Barclay Bonthron, A. St. G. Hamersley, F. S. Taggart, C. C. Bennett, Dr. Selwyn, and Dr. Bell-Irving. The three outside members were all elected, so that Rossland, Victoria and Revelstoke have their representatives on the committee.

The election was duly confirmed when Dr. Bell-Irving remarked that he wished to see the committee as representative of the Province as possible and he would retire in favor of Mr. Ben. Douglas. That gentleman however declined office.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed and carried and the meeting adjourned.

**A NOVEL VIEW OF A MINER'S LICENSE.**

The Province regards the issue of a British Columbia miner's license as a guarantee of respectability and good conduct, and, as such, capable of withdrawal by the government. It were well, perhaps, if the continued holding of such a license were dependent on good conduct, but as things are, there seems to be no doubt that the miner's license is merely an easy source of provincial revenue production. Hence our contemporary's suggested partial plea in support of the continuance of such a levy on the ordinary working miner of gold or silver bearing ore is, under the circumstances, invalid.

**GOING NORTH.**

Mr. P. R. Ritchie, of Vancouver, has returned from a business visit to England. For two years Mr. Ritchie has devoted much time to mining, and and whilst in London was engaged as manager by a powerful English company with a view to their British Columbia interests, and also make a personal examination of Klondike mineral resources. Mr. Ritchie has men at work on two claims owned by his company at Kamloops and Sicamous, respectively, and expects to start with a party for Klondike about the middle of March.

The belief that gold can be manufactured from silver is gaining ground among scientific men, and a great many express confidence in Professor Emmens' ability to do it. The economic bearing of the problem will be the most important, inasmuch as both metals are in use as money by all nations of the earth. What its effect will be in this respect will be hard to calculate. It will create an unparalleled demand for silver properties, which will be of immense benefit to the west. It would appear also that science will solve the money question by establishing a ratio imposed by the law of nature revealed by science—that is, if the secret of the process becomes public, and it is believed that it will.—Rossland Record.