

CONVENTION AT WORK

Officers Elected by the Mining Association Delegates.

The Nanaimo Coal Miners Returning to Work Today.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 25.—The big mining convention is in full swing, two sessions being held today. John Keen, of Kaslo, was elected chairman, and Mortimer Lamb secretary. Business was practically limited to the appointment of committees, but each section insisted so strongly on being represented on the committees that time was lost. Mr. Hobson made a stirring appeal to get down to business, and no doubt the convention will be the most important one ever held in the province so far as effect on the mining industry is concerned. There are 250 delegates in attendance.

The Nanaimo coal miners' strike is off. The men return to work tomorrow. The proposition of the company was approved by the executive and accepted by the men this morning.

The British ship Pythome arrived today, 88 days from Peking, in tow of the tug Tyee. As the tug was nearing port, rounding Race Rocks, she had a narrow escape from collision with the Orient-bound liner Empress of China, which crossed her bows, fifty or sixty yards away.

Captain Balcom, of this city, returned today from Halifax after despatching the schooner St. Clair on a sealing cruise to the Falkland islands, she being the fifth vessel sent from Halifax in that business by Victoria sealers.

The city hall was packed tonight at the smoker given to the mining delegates. Afterwards the visitors witnessed the boxing match between Hill of the navy and Hall of Victoria. Speeches were made at the city hall by Mayor McCandless, Gilmour, M. P. P. of Vancouver, Mayor Dean of Rossland and Mayor Burrell of Grand Forks. The latter made an urgent appeal in view of the settlement of the Nanaimo strike, for the settlement of the labor troubles of this country on a permanent basis.

VICTORIA, Feb. 26.—A more fraternal spirit is manifest among the members of the mining association since the discussion of yesterday cleared the air of some of the spirit of suspicion which was inevitable in such a large gathering. The consequence was that better progress was made this afternoon, two resolutions of great importance being approved. One was for the abolition of the 2 per cent tax; the other affirmed and approved the stand taken by the lead mine owners at the Sandon convention in asking for protection for the industry which they represent. That the members are not unwilling to bear fair burdens was shown in the adoption of another resolution fathered by S. S. Taylor and Clive Phillips Wooley, declaring that the representatives are not opposed to taxation of mines on an equitable basis. Smith Curtis had a motion carried also declaring in favor of taxing the net profits of the mines. Before adjournment resolutions were introduced asking the Dominion government to appoint a minister of mines. This will be discussed tomorrow. A committee was appointed, consisting of five labor leaders and five capitalists, to endeavor to reach a common basis for settling or preventing strikes in the province.

A constitutional authority at Ottawa today said that the British Columbia government must be lamentably weak in constitutional etiquette, not to say constitutional knowledge, judging from its action in calling parliament for one date for the dispatch of business and then for another, without giving any satisfactory reason.

It was announced today that R. Dunsmuir and Sons will reopen the Alexandra mines at South Wellington, near Ladysmith. New bunkers will be built, the old bunkers were torn down a year ago, when the mine was closed after the labor troubles with the miners arising out of a project to make a federal union of all the island miners. The Wellington Colliery company has started boring for coal four and a half miles north of Ladysmith. At extension the output may be increased by the addition of a third shift, employing 500 extra men.

Letters received from the north state that a fire occurred on the steam collier Wellington when she was crossing Queen Charlotte sound on her way to Skagway with coal, as the result of the explosion of a lamp in one of the officers' rooms. The damage is said to have totalled \$2,000.

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—The committee on the relations of capital and labor are hopeful of being able to settle the Fernie strike before the convention rises. The members of it, who are equally divided between capital and labor, have been most forbearing, and as Manager Tonkin, of the Crow's Nest company, and Chris Foley are both on it, the principals in the strike trouble are thoroughly represented.

The convention this afternoon decided to tackle the relations between capital and labor generally, and instructed their committee on the constitution to confer with the one just mentioned with a view to reaching a basis.

The net results for this morning's sittings of the convention were the endorsement of the proposal to have a portfolio of mines in the Dominion cabinet, a resolution asking for a revision of the mine signal code, and another asking for the abolition of dues on timber out on mineral claims for mining purposes. The sentiment on all these points was overwhelmingly in favor of the resolu-

tions, though ranching members are disposed to ask the convention how the lost revenue would be made up.

Premier Prior pleased the convention by attending and stating that he was opposed to the 2 per cent tax, and practically inviting their co-operation in designing a substitute for it.

The full court has decided that the trial of the petition to unseat Mr. Paterson in North Victoria cannot come on before the session.

After a long debate this evening the mining association passed a resolution fathered by S. S. Taylor of Nelson, that in place of the two per cent tax a fair tax be levied on the net annual production of the mine. The convention also asked for the appointment of a Dominion metallurgical expert to examine into the mineral resources.

The following are the resolutions adopted at today's session of the convention:

Resolved, That boiler inspection is productive of great hardship and that the legislature be urged to amend the same as follows:

1. To reduce the present excessive fees so that the same may conform to those prevailing in other provinces.

2. Conformity with the general practice in other provinces and to accept the certificates of reputable boiler insurance companies.

3. The present rule adopted for calculating the strength and safe working pressures of boilers is unusually and unnecessarily severe, and these rules should be altered to conform to general engineering usages in Canada and the United States.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this convention that the law relating to free miners' certificates should be amended, so that failure to keep up a free miner's certificate shall not work forfeiture of rights acquired under it.

A resolution was passed for the purpose of taxation crown-granted mineral claims should be placed in the same position as other mineral claims, and that exemption from the tax imposed by section 145 of the Mineral Act should be extended to all groups of crown-granted claims, upon any one of which claims the assessment work for the whole group may have been performed.

Resolved, That collection by the government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood cut and used by the owner upon his own mine and mineral claim for mining purposes should be discontinued.

That the government be urged to immediately obtain all necessary information and advice from both miners and mine owners to amend the code of mine signals so as to make it as perfect and safe as possible.

The convention has now decided to hold two sittings each day until the conclusion of the convention. The morning sitting will open at 9 o'clock and another one will be held at 8 o'clock in the evening. This will leave the afternoon free for committees to get in their work.

The placer mining committee worked until near midnight last night, and have been busy again today getting their demands ready for the convention. The list of recommendations is a lengthy one.

The reception committee in this city, representing the citizens and the local mining association, contemplate taking the delegates for a drive around by Oak Bay and Dallas Road tomorrow.

A resolution will be presented to the convention urging that as the Alaskan boundary question is one of great importance to this province British Columbia should be represented at the meeting of the commission dealing with it.

Vancouver delegates are trying to arrange to have the upper country delegates allowed to stop off in that city for a few days on their way home.

The afternoon session was devoted to considering the constitution and by-laws. A serious snag was encountered when a clause was read debarbing the discussion of labor problems by the association. Several labor delegates contended that they might as well have remained at home if this important phase of the mining situation was not to be considered. After a lengthy discussion consideration of the clause was deferred.

The introduction of this clause is remarkable in face of the fact that a committee of ten were appointed to reach the best methods for settling questions in dispute between capital and labor.

The convention this evening pronounced in favor of reducing the crown grant fee from \$25 to \$10 and of government suppression of fraudulent wild-cattling. It also passed a resolution in favor of allowing a prospector to stake claims in the railway belt without the payment of \$5 an acre, and a resolution in favor of allowing prospectors on Dominion railway lands the free use of mineral and surface rights, with previous years, payments are very fair for this season.

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—At the morning session of the mining convention the following amendment relating to capital and labor was adopted: "This association shall be non-political, and shall not permit discussion in any of its conventions or meetings on social problems; nor shall it interpose in any way with labor unions; provided, however, that the association shall be at liberty to use its good offices in adjusting and settling mining labor difficulties."

A resolution offered by A. C. Galt that all mining legislation be referred to the government by the association for approval before being introduced to the legislature was defeated. A resolution to petition the government to amend the boiler inspection act now in force, it being claimed that it was severe in its provisions and costly in enforcement, was passed.

The association elected the following officers: President, James Keen of Kaslo; vice-president, J. E. Hobson of Cariboo; second vice-president, D. W. Higgins of Victoria; secretary, A. L. Belliveau of Victoria; treasurer, A. B. Fraser of Victoria; and an executive consisting of fifteen representative mining men of various parts of the province.

The meeting adjourned until 4 in the afternoon, and the members were given a drive by the mayor and corporation.

On reassembling Lieutenant-Governor Joly was announced and was well-

comed with cheers. He was loudly cheered again on taking the platform. He said he had been following with the very greatest interest the proceedings as reported in the daily press, and he knew of nothing which appeared more hopeful for the future of British Columbia than the feeling which has inspired the gathering together of such a splendid body of men from all over the province. All who took an interest in mining, and all those on whom the country must rely for development of the grand resources of the country, must be impressed with the conviction that the success of the convention augured well for the future. There was a feeling of actual sadness engendered when one thought of the vast mineral wealth of the province lying almost dormant, and he hoped that as a result of their deliberations much good would result. They did not want a long speech from him, he felt, nor did they wish his advice, but they had a right to expect what he was very sure of, and he had a heavy responsibility in their grand effort to lift the province of British Columbia to the splendid position which was its due.

The following resolution reported by the committee on questions affecting labor and capital was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the government of British Columbia be and is hereby requested to appoint a committee consisting of three members whose duty it shall be to examine as fully as possible into the existing relations of employer and employee engaged in the mining industry in this province, and to gather data on the question of capital and labor therein employed; said commission to meantime be regarded as a conciliation board in any mining labor troubles that may occur, with a view to the settlement and prevention of such trade disturbances."

Chris Foley moved the following, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That the government be respectfully requested to constitute said board of conciliation by the appointment of the following: (a) one practical mine manager; (b) one practical mine worker; (c) a chairman mutually agreed upon by the other two. This board shall have the power to collect information under oath, and its further duty shall be to make prompt reports from time to time to the minister of mines, through whom the press and the public may be informed of the situation.

The meeting then adjourned to reassemble at 9 p. m.

At the meeting tonight the convention appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Gaunce, Keffer and Flumet, representatives of capital, and Seaman, McAndrew and Foley, representatives of labor, together with Chairman Keen, to proceed at once to Fernie and attempt to settle the strike, the association to pay expenses.

Almost all the evening was taken up in discussion of a resolution that crown grants should be substituted for leases in the case of hydraulic mines. After a long debate this was carried.

Premier Prior advised the convention that Deputy Minister King being at Fernie, it would possibly complicate matters if the conciliation committee were to go into the matter. He advised that Mr. King be informed that the committee was ready to assist him if he is willing.

He said the government would provide funds for the committee to go to Fernie. This was loudly cheered. Smith Curtis, in a warmly appreciative speech, moved a vote of thanks to Col. Prior. This was carried with cheers as well as one of thanks to Victoria for its hospitable reception.

The convention will hold more sessions on Monday.

NEWS OF GREENWOOD.

Farewell to Paul Johnson—The V. V. & E. Survey.

GREENWOOD, Feb. 28.—The employees of the B. C. Copper company's smelter presented Paul Johnson, late general manager of the smelting works, with a valuable gold watch, chain and charm this afternoon on the occasion of his retirement from the management. Mr. Johnson entertained all the employees at dinner at the Hotel Armstrong this evening.

J. A. Tuzo is down from the West Fork of Kettle River for piping with which to unwater a 40-foot prospect shaft on the Comstock mineral claim owned by himself and Thomas Curry and situated near Beaverdell. It is reported that there is a showing of good ore on this property.

V. V. & E. railway engineers started work this morning running lines up Copper creek from its junction with Boundary creek in the vicinity of the Greenwood smelter.

The report received from Eholt two days since to the effect that the Emma mine had closed down is now stated to be incorrect. Today's information is that the night shift, that mine has been laid off, but work is proceeding in the daytime as usual.

At a smoking social given last night in the lodge hall under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias a presentation was made to D. A. Mackenzie, who is about to leave the employ of the Russell-Law-Caulfield Company, Limited, and proceed to Spokane. Mr. Mackenzie has been a very active member of the K. P. E. and A. F. and A. M. lodges established in Greenwood, and the brethren of these lodges together subscribed a purse of gold as a slight token of their goodwill.

ROOF CAVED.—The weight of snow collected on the roofs of the buildings at the R. E. Lee mine caused one of the roofs to collapse a few days since. The company has a force of men at work repairing the damage.

RICH LARDEAU ORE THE GAME OF GRAB

AN IMPORTANT STRIKE ON THE L. B. GROUP NEAR TROUT LAKE.

OTHER CLAIMS PUSHING INTO THE CLASS OF PRODUCING MINES.

(Special to The Miner.)

TROUT LAKE, Feb. 28.—An important strike is reported on the L. B. group in this district. In the shaft now being sunk on the L. B. claim a depth of 34 feet was reached when a shoot of ore twenty inches in width was encountered. Eight inches of this is solid gray copper, with assay values of \$16 in gold, \$300 in silver, 5 per cent copper and 70 per cent lead. The remaining twelve inches is quartz carrying \$180 per ton. The vein is traceable for 400 feet on the surface of the three claims in the L. B. group. The property is being worked by George W. Stead for Philadelphia capitalists, who also own the Ethel group of three claims. On the Ethel, work is being pushed rapidly and the results are very encouraging. One man is kept continuously on ore, and during the last six weeks has taken out 400 sacks, or 20 tons of ore, assaying over \$100 per ton. A recent shipment from the property to the Trail smelter gave returns of \$112 per ton in all values.

A strong crew of men is pushing work on the Pedro claim, owned by the Marie Marilla, company of Minneapolis. Good progress is being made and the company is confident that a considerable tonnage will be blocked out during the coming summer and shipped to the smelter.

AT GRANBY MINES

COKE SUPPLY TO COME FROM THE DUNSMUIR OVENS AT UNION.

PROSPECT OF MINE WORK GOING ON STEADILY IN ANY EVENT.

PHOENIX, B. C., Feb. 27.—Ore shipments from the Granby mines in this camp have been cut in half from the daily rate of 1500 tons, which has been maintained for several weeks. This is occasioned by the blowing out yesterday of two of the furnaces at the Granby smelter at Grand Forks, necessitated by repairs.

From the company management it is learned that the smelter now has about twelve days' supply of coke on hand, after using which, if no more is received, the works will be forced to temporarily suspend operations. In the meantime negotiations are still going on to secure coke from the Union collieries at the coast, and it may be possible to secure some 6000 or 6000 tons, or enough for a month's run at the smelter.

At the present time the Granby mines are employing the largest force of men they have had for some months—about 360 in number, and Superintendent Williams announces that even if the smelter is forced to close for a while on account of shortage of coke he will need nearly the entire force to do some development work that he has mapped out, and which he has not been able to get at recently. The indications, therefore, are that this camp will not be directly affected seriously by the coal miners' strike.

"The Granby company has contracted with the Dunsmuir colliery, on the British Columbia coast, for 200 tons of coke a day to run its smelters at Grand Forks, B. C.," said Jay F. Graves, manager of the company at Spokane. "The coke was to have commenced coming on Tuesday, but we have not had word of its being shipped. The coke will cost our company \$16,000 a month more than we would have paid for coke if it had not been for the strike in the Crow's Nest coal fields shutting off our supply. However, we shall stand the extra expense rather than shut down our works, scatter our crews and suffer general disaster to business in the Boundary country."

A LONG RIDE.

German Officer Goes From Tientsin to Berlin on Horseback.

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—Lieutenant von Saltzmann, who has been connected with the German forces in China, has left Tientsin to ride to Berlin on horseback. He rode an Australian horse and had with him one maffu and two ponies. He is riding via Tai-Yuan-Fu (Shan-Si), Lan Chow, Kau-Chau (Khan-Su), East Turkestan, Karasha, Aksu, Kashgar, and then over the Terek pass into the Russian province of Grehgan, Bokhara and Merka to the Caspian sea. After a short stay at Constantinople he will go direct to Berlin, where he expects to arrive in May.

E. S. Slawson, a well known Northport merchant, was in Rossland yesterday.

REPORTED C. P. R. ENDEAVORS TO CORRAL THE COAL AND OIL LANDS.

SUSPICION THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLAYS INTO RAILWAY'S HANDS.

ELKO, Feb. 26.—A party of Canadian Pacific engineers has passed here bound for the coal and oil lands to the south and just east of the Canadian Pacific reserve. Their mission is to survey the coal and oil lands with a view to establishing a claim upon the ground.

The fact has created some considerable excitement here. The wealth of the land is known generally, and private parties have made efforts from time to time to secure title to the ground, but without avail. Their efforts to establish titles have always been blocked by the Canadian Pacific with the assistance of the government reserve. That the Canadian Pacific is now sending its engineers into the country is taken as evidence prima facie that they have won round the government and will have a free hand to annex the available territory in lesser, which others have sought in vain to acquire under the ordinary procedure. Indignation runs high, and if the expected eventuates in connection with the oil and coal lands the government will come in for a castigation at the hands of the public.

C. P. R. OFFICIALS.

The Party Now Made a Tour of the Boundary District.

GRAND FORKS, Feb. 27.—The party of C. P. R. officials making a tour of the Boundary district spent today at Grand Forks. Its members included C. E. McPherson, general passenger agent western line; W. W. Peters, assistant traffic manager western line; Winnipeg; E. J. Coyle, assistant general passenger agent; Vancouver; J. S. Carter, district passenger agent; H. E. Macdonell, district freight agent; and O. H. Becker, assistant district freight agent, Nelson, B. C.

A CHINESE REFORMER.

Leung Kai Chow Reported to be Coming to America.

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—The local branch of the Chinese empire reform association has been advised that Leung Kai Chow, one of the reform officials who fled from Peking with Kang Yu Wei at the time of the coup d'etat which placed the emperor dowager in power, is about to come to America. He is expected to reach Victoria on one of the incoming liners of the coming month.

WEST YALE ELECTION.

Mr. Semlin Has Now Over a Hundred Majority.

ASHCROFT, Feb. 27.—As was expected, returns from Similkameen valley polling places have increased the majority for C. A. Semlin, the opposition candidate, which is now over 100. Returns so far are as follows:

Pool.	Sanon Semlin.	
Yale.....	1	20
Lytton.....	24	21
Agassiz.....	14	46
Ashcroft.....	43	47
Spence's Bridge.....	8	13
Savona's.....	9	27
Spuzzan.....	2	19
North Bend.....	6	15
Hope.....	11	12
Lower Nicola.....	14	6
Cooler's.....	17	11
Princeton.....	13	44
Granite Creek.....	5	5
Otter Valley.....	1	4

OPENING IN SPOKANE.

Stipples for the Bank of Montreal Branch En Route.

(Special to The Miner.)

NORTHPORT, Wash., Feb. 27.—Supplies addressed to the Bank of Montreal at Spokane passed through here today. This would seem to indicate that the branch, as announced by the coast officials of the bank, is to be opened at once. The prompt action now being taken in establishing the bank's business further confirms the report that the connecting link between Spokane and the main line of the Canadian Pacific in the Kootenays is to be proceeded with this spring.

C. P. R. CLERKS STRIKE.

Alleged Freezing Out of Brotherhood Men the Cause.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 28.—The clerks employed in the freight, passenger and telegraph departments of the Canadian Pacific railway have gone on strike to enforce recognition of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees. When the organization was formed here recently the clerks claimed that the officials strongly opposed its formation, and claim that the company has been gradually but systematically discharging employees who were known to belong to the brotherhood. A freight clerk, alleged to have been discharged because of his membership in the brotherhood, was the subject of an ultimatum. The brotherhood demanded his reinstatement, and when this was refused arranged to strike.

THE CHINESE REBELS.

Canton Plotters Connected With Kwang Si Movement.

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—Commenting on the intended rising in Canton, frustrated by the information supplied by the Hongkong authorities to the Chinese government, the North China Daily News says there is no doubt but that the movement was connected with the Kwang Si rebellion, it being indispensable to the rebel plans to secure a seaport for the importation of war munitions. The rebellion is directed against the Manchou dynasty, which has never been popular in South China. In all five cargo boats were seized at Canton, all containing uniforms, banners, hatchets and swords.

VAN ANDA MAIL ROBBERED.

A Thousand Dollars Taken from Registered Mail Sack.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 28.—A peculiar postal robbery has just come to light here. A registered mail sack, containing at least \$1,000 in bank bills, besides documents of value was opened, the contents abstracted, the sack locked up again, and the thief escaped, leaving no clue. The robbery took place between the Van Anda postoffice on Texada island and the Vancouver office, and the sack was riddled of its contents on the night of February 11th or the morning of the day following.

The postmistress at Van Anda deposited the mail sacks in a locked room at the wharf before delivering them to the mail clerk on the steamer at Van Anda. When received at the postoffice at Vancouver the registered mail sack was empty. The sack had been opened with keys. It is known that seven letters in the sack contained in all \$1,000, a single envelope containing \$500 in currency.

BLEW OUT THE GAS.

WINNIPEG, Man., Feb. 27.—Three farmers from Minnesota named W. Hoff Olson, B. W. Peterson and A. J. Wilson, who arrived yesterday on a land-seeking expedition, were found asphyxiated in their room at a city hotel this morning.

They are not yet dead, but have been unconscious up to a late hour, and very little hope is held out for their recovery. All are married men, of about 40 years of age. One of the party evidently blew out the gas.

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