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THE MONTH.

AN important meeting of the Executive Committee of the Provincial Mining Association was held in Victoria during the past month, the chief business being the presentation to the Legislature of the recommendations made by the Association at its first convention in February last with regard to proposed changes in the mining laws and the introduction of new measures with a view to improving the conditions and promoting the welfare of the industry in the Province. Among the suggestions brought forward were the following: The appointment of a competent geologist, "who has had experience in examination and classification of auriferous alluvial deposits" to report during the present season on the geological conditions and mineral resources of the placer mining districts; the amendment and modification of the tariff fees chargeable on the incorporation, registration or licensing of companies; the abolition of the "two per cent. tax," and the substitution of a more equitable form of taxation therefor; the discontinuance of the practice of collecting timber dues from mine and mineral claim owners, when the timber is used for mine purposes; the securing of information and advice from both mine owners and miners relative to the working of the mine-signals code, in order that it may be made as perfect as possible; the granting of six months' grace for the redemption of mineral property sold for taxes; the

abolition or amendment of the clause in the Mineral Act imposing the penalty of forfeiture for failure to renew a free miner's certificate; the inclusion, for the purpose of taxation, of Crown granted mineral claims under section 145 of the Mineral Act, reading "all groups of Crown granted claims upon any one of which claims the assessment work for the whole group may have been performed," thus freeing the unworked claims of the group from taxation; the taxation of mines on the basis of the "net annual income resulting from the product of the mine"; the reduction of the fee charged for the issuance of a Crown grant when applied for by the original locator or discoverer of a claim; the suppression "by prosecution or otherwise," on the part of the Government of "wild-cattling"; the institution of an enquiry by the Government concerning the working of the "Boiler Inspection Act" with a view to the removal of existing dissatisfaction; the appointment of a commission to enquire into "existing relations of employer and employee engaged in the mining industry in this Province," said commission to act in the meantime as a Conciliation Board; the issuance of Crown grants on placer claims; the opening of Indian reserves for mining purposes; the expenditure of larger sums annually on the construction of roads and trails throughout the mining districts; the revision of the Mineral and Placer Mining Acts in view of the ambiguity of many of the clauses; and the abrogation of the powers of local agents or attorneys under the Companies' Act, for the sale or transfer of stock or property.

It would appear almost an impertinence on our part to in any way question—and we do not propose to do so—the wisdom of any of these recommendations, embodying as they do resolutions which were approved of by a body as representative as it was possible to make it of the mining interests of the Province, but it may very properly be pointed out that during the three days the Mining Convention was in session as many important questions (some of them of a decided controversial character) were introduced and disposed of as would have occupied the attention of the Legislature for at least as many months. Of course this is easily explainable on the grounds that we had at the Convention a body of men who knew exactly what they wanted and consequently had no occasion to waste time in arriving at that point. But at the same time, we submit, that if any errors of judgment have been made, if some of the recommendations made to the Government are found impracticable or after all not quite in the best interests of the public—and we do not suggest at present, that this is the case at all—then such mistakes must certainly be ascribed to the unavoidable haste in which the business before the Convention was completed. In the future it will not be necessary for any