

mitted to each executive committee, which practically is the governing board of the whole association. Branches are being organized as rapidly as possible, and it is hoped that before another year the association will have auxiliary representation in every mining district.

"There was printed in well-arranged typography the full proceedings of the first annual convention, embodying all the actions and addresses of the various speakers. Three thousand copies were placed in the hands of second vice-presidents and members.

"Realizing the necessity of closer intercommunication with the official heads, as well as a more personal acquaintance and understanding upon the general work, which only personal contact would best afford, a convention of the second vice-presidents was called for February 22nd, 1896, and was very largely attended. The proceedings were published in the March number of *Mining*. The result of this meeting has impressed the executive committee with the wisdom of repeating them as often as practicable. The convention closed its sessions on the evening of the 22nd with a magnificent banquet. Thus, in good cheer, firmer friendship, better understanding and more full faith in the future prosperity of the association, and in one another the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

"We are pledged to support in common all interests of mining in the Northwest, whether those interests are affected either by laws already operative or by persons or corporations, or new laws to be ordained, and only in this way is our work destined for long duration and the highest usefulness. Our purpose is a common one, and our inspiration the attainment of the greatest good.

"The province of British Columbia has had our warmest consideration and no stone has been left unturned or interest not advanced that we in our power could subserve. In April of the present year, and as a delegate from this association to the parliament of British Columbia, I visited Victoria. The tax bill then before that honourable body for consideration implied a two per cent. tax penalty upon the gross output of all crude ores produced in the province, which was deemed pernicious to the development of mining. Had this bill been permitted to become a law it would have retarded for some time to come mining development in British Columbia. In the final settlement of the measure the association was a marked factor. The bill as finally passed was so modified that but one per cent. upon the net smelter returns was submitted and became the law. This permits prospecting and development to proceed unhindered and unprejudiced, and now no revenue is paid in the way of a tax to the general government except upon such ores as are mined and first shipped to the smelter and for which cash returns are made. Thus ores upon the dump are exempt from this liability. The association regards its identification with its attendant results as one of the best and most important endeavours of the year.

"In the early history of and shortly after the organization, Col. N. E. Lindsley introduced a resolution which was in effect the establishment of a cabinet office in the United States Government which should be known as the secretary of mining. This resolution was ably supported by Capt. C. H.

Thompson and others. A paper advocating the measure was read by A. F. Parker, of Grangeville, Ida., at our official convention, February 22nd last. The association feels that the time has come when the great mining interests of the United States should have the same recognition officially by this Government in the way of a cabinet office and officer as any other department of commerce or state and to that end will labour hard to accomplish it. Its action has borne fruit in that the mining associations of California and Colorado have joined forces with us, and all will help to carry to success this meritorious movement. The officer of minister of mines for the British provinces has proven a great boon to mining there, and it is with the same intent that we endeavour to establish the same thing for these United States. Our great mining interests are fast awakening to its importance, and demand that it receive at the hands of the United States Government that recognition which shall place it upon a parity with other commercial industries. We hope to be successful."

The president in his address referred to several projects which the association had in view in the near future. Among other things he mentioned the early erection of a mining building in Spokane five storeys in height to contain offices, club, assembly and entertainment rooms, and space for the exposition of minerals, etc.

Altogether we congratulate the association on the success which is attending its efforts on behalf of mining in the Northwest, and regret that our space will not permit of a more extended report of the annual meeting.

Hotels.

ONE of the most comfortable hotels in the Kootenay is the Lancaster Hotel at Rossland. Situated on rising ground above Columbia Avenue it is free from impure drainage of any kind and the view from the windows of the house is charming. The meals served are most excellent and everything about it comfortable and home-like. Messrs. Garnett & Long deserve the greatest credit for the manner in which the house is conducted, and during our long stay there we found them attentive and obliging hosts.

The Kaslo, in the town of the same name, will be found most comfortable and like the Lancaster at Rossland, the meals are all that can be desired. No one will complain after a stay at the Kaslo.

A Missionary to England,

THE introduction of capital for the development and operation of our mines is all that is required to show to the world that British Columbia is immensely rich in mineral treasure and that investments, if properly made, will prove to be highly profitable. Each day is bringing to light new fields and valuable deposits. We, on the spot, know this, but capital, especially when held in distant countries, is wary of investment in new enterprises unless the holders can be assured by responsible parties that the propositions offered to them are *bona fide* in every respect. Englishmen as a rule are cautious in the investment of their money—some think over-cautious—but once they feel con-