

Canadian Mining Inst. Convention at Vancouver

Annual General Meeting Presented Valuable Geological and Mining Information of Especial Interest to Western Men and Applicable to Western Conditions.

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute was held in Vancouver on November 26th, 27th and 28th. By consensus of opinion of those attending the convention who have attended similar meetings at Montreal and elsewhere, this convention was one of the most successful held in the history of the Canadian Mining Institute. Altogether over two hundred delegates and members registered at the meetings, which were outstanding for the large attendance, the value to the profession of the papers presented, and the sincere and evident signs of good fellowship that attended all the sessions.

Mr. H. Mortimer-Lamb, general secretary, presented "The Utilization of Returned Soldiers for Prospecting," and recorded the opportunities presented and the efforts made to make use of returned soldiers who desired continuous outdoor life. W. Fleet Robertson, Provincial mineralogist, Victoria, discussed this subject in favor of the methods that should be adopted toward securing this end. Mr. E. E. Campbell, mine superintendent of the Granby at Anyox, presented Mr. Louis Simpson's paper on the "Free Importation of Mining Machinery." While this is highly desired by the mining profession, it also is stated that the Canadian Manufacturers Association approves of the idea and it is hoped that Legislature will be presently enacted looking to the end that mining machinery not manufactured in Canada or coming into competition with Canadian manufacturers may be imported without custom dues when intended for actual use in a mining property in Canada. Later this proposition was embodied in a resolution passed at the convention. In the absence of Mr. Frederick Bradshaw, Mr. F. W. Hollar, mining superintendent of the Surf Inlet Mine, spoke on "Taxation of Gold Mines," and presented the novel idea of charging a premium say of two to three dollars per ounce over the mint value for gold that goes into the arts. Since about seventy per cent. of the output of gold finds its way into the arts this would help to compensate for the losses which gold mining shares in connection with the rise in labor and materials costs in the actual mining of the metal.

Mr. F. G. Wilson read a very interesting paper on the "Cassidy Coal Mine," the coal property of the Granby Co. at Cassidy, Vancouver Island, giving a description of the plant, townsite and the efforts of the company to improve labor conditions by affording them the best means possible of living, and opportunities of recreation when off duty. Professor Joseph Daniels, of the University of Washington, presented an informal paper on "Coal Mining in the State of Washington," recording coal occurrences, methods of mining and difficulties in carrying on operations by reason of the unsatisfactory geological structure.

Mr. D. B. Dowling, in charge of the geological survey of the Dominion Geological Survey, for the prairie Provinces, with headquarters at Edmonton presented a really valuable paper on "Oil Possibilities in Western Canada." He presented in outline the entire field of oil occurrences and its possible development from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific. Oil or oil bearing shales occurs under three different geological periods and he traced the three forms across the continent. Paleozoic formation was chiefly along the Atlantic seaboard and in the Maritime Provinces, with some occurrences in Ontario. The Cretaceous formation presented the greatest possibility and this formation occurred over a wide area from Ontario in a northwesterly direction to the Arctic Circle, and even among the island of the Arctic Ocean. He thought that the basin of the Mackenzie River and wide stretches of territory in the Slave Lake country and beyond held high probabilities of commercial

oil fields. Mr. Dowling recorded in detail the development of the Calgary oil field and the difficulties in securing oil in commercial quantities. He also alluded, which hold a great deal of interest to the Vancouver people, to the tertiary formation which was the general characteristic of the Fraser Valley now being drilled for oil. Acting only on the theory that oil does not occur on granitic formation he could hold out no hope that a commercial oil field could be developed in the Fraser Valley. The character of the land is that a deposition from glacial drift and from the Fraser River upon this granitic formation, and that where oil did occur there was no impervious stratum which would hold oil in place, permitting wells to tap under this stratum.

Dean R. W. Brock, of the University of British Columbia, spoke on the subject of "Palestine and the Last Crusade" to a public audience the first evening of the convention. Dean Brock was attached as a major to the forces under General Allenby and recorded the military movements which resulted in the capture of Jerusalem and all the Palestinian territory. Professor R. W. Uglow, of the University of British Columbia, spoke on "Possibilities for Platinum in Western British Columbia," and gave a great deal of valuable information as to occurrence and prospecting for this valuable metal. Professor Uglow was the representative of the Munitions Board in increasing the output of platinum during the war. Mr. W. E. Greenawalt, of Denver, Colorado, presented a paper on the subject of "Hydro-metallurgy of Copper Sulphide," and Mr. E. P. Matheson, of New York City, spoke on the "Concentration of Copper Ores," while Mr. R. W. Diamond, of the Trail Smelter, presented a paper on "The Recent Ore Concentration Developments by the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company."

Mr. W. A. Williams, smelter superintendent of the Granby Co. at Anyox, prepared a paper on "The By-products Ovens at Anyox," which was read by Mr. E. J. Conway, of the same company. Mr. Williams took up the subject where Mr. Wilson, of Cassidy, left off, and described the coke plant at Anyox and its operations there. Major Angus Davis spoke on "The Dolly Varden Mine," describing the geology of the country, the mineral occurrence, the mine development and methods of mining as practised in this growingly important mine.

One of the most important papers was that presented by Mr. H. N. Freeman, of Vancouver, on "New Methods in Hydro-metallurgy of Gold and Silver." Mr. Freeman has perfected a new process of cyaniding which is steadily reducing the cost of treatment for recovery of gold and silver. While he worked on this subject before the outbreak of war, the shutting off of the cyanide shipments from Germany created a serious situation, but through effective treatment Mr. Freeman was able to relieve to some extent the keen demand and make possible the continuous treatment of gold ores. Mr. E. E. Campbell's paper on "New Mineral Deposits of the Stewart District" is presented on another page of this issue, and is especially valuable, giving first hand information concerning this camp, which promises to be an important one in the future.

Mr. Paul Billingsly, of Seattle, presented "Geological Methods as Applied at Butte, Montana," and Mr. N. H. Thompson, of Vancouver, spoke on "Making of a Matte Smelter Reverberatory." Dean Brock presented the subject, "Relations Which Should Exist Between Governments and the Mining Industry." Professor R. C. Wallace, in charge of the geological survey for the University of Manitoba, and who has done such excellent work in the Le Pas district in connection with the remarkable discoveries of ores, presided at one of the sessions at which Mr. F. W. Gray, editor of the Canadian Mining Journal, Montreal, presented the subject of "Iron and Steel Industry in West-