

circumstances it would not be wise to take the action suggested. Their view was that it was an Empire question and that the question of the welfare of the Empire should be placed before any monetary advantages to Canadian silver producers. The resolution, however, carried.

#### A Government Exploration Party.

Mr. S. S. Fowler, of Nelson, B.C., was sponsor for a resolution proposing that the British Columbia Government be asked to provide for and equip an exploratory party, the duties of which would be to explore the vast North-Eastern section of this province, of which to date very little is known. It was true, Mr. Fowler said, that the section referred to from what little information was available did not seem to offer exceptional promise as a mineral producing zone. Very little, however, could be told of the resources of the region in question and he was of the opinion that the Government would be amply repaid for the expenditure that might be involved in assembling detailed data relating to the territory he had in mind. He instanced the Black Hills of Arizona as being a striking illustration of what an unpromising district may ultimately develop into. Every one knew the Homestake Mine of the Black Hills. It had produced millions of dollars in gold and there were associated with it other gold producing properties not as much heard of because overshadowed by the Homestake. But the Black Hills originally had been looked upon as barren of mineral of any kind. Was it not possible, he asked, that the vast unexplored region lying along the northern boundaries of British Columbia did not possess such riches as these. It was a section 107,000 square miles in extent, only ten per cent smaller than Great Britain and Ireland combined. At any rate he felt that the Government should undertake such work as suggested. Mr. Fowler's resolution met with the hearty approbation of the Convention and was carried without dissent.

#### University Education.

That the Provincial Government should be asked to provide a more substantial vote for the carrying on of educational work at the University of British Columbia was the purport of another resolution. Mr. Smith Curtis, in dealing with this, pointed amid some amusement that the University of the Province, notwithstanding the first importance of the mining industry of the country, was allowed only \$15,000 this year for the maintenance of its geological and mineralogical departments. He declared that it was very important, in order that Canada maintain a high position industrially, that the technical education of its young men and women be of a high standard. This could not be more aptly illustrated than in the case of Germany, which country had gained its prominence in the industrial world through its system of intensive technical education. He was not by any means suggesting that the example of that ruthless Empire should be followed in its application of knowledge but was strongly of the opinion that, in order to obtain the best results in the development of the country's natural resources, provision should be made for teaching the younger generation all that modern science has to offer. For these reasons he endorsed without qualification the proposal that the Provincial Government be asked to provide more generally for its mining educational facilities of the University

of British Columbia. This resolution also carried with enthusiasm.

Other resolutions, all of which were endorsed, may be summarized as follows:

#### Other Resolutions.

That the Provincial Government be asked to provide an Assay Office and facilities for the assay of ore at Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

That the Minister of Mines for British Columbia be requested to arrange for a tour through British Columbia with a party of British and American Mining Engineers, expenses of the same to be defrayed by the Government of British Columbia.

That the Department of Trade and Commerce be requested to arrange for the filming of British Columbia mineral samples and to use said pictures in connection with the advertising programme it now is preparing.

That the Postmaster-General of Canada be petitioned to remove the present restrictions placed by the Dominion on the importation of such second-class mail as representative American mining magazines.

That Members of the Convention assist in a movement proposed by the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, having as its object inauguration of a campaign of cleanliness in America (the idea of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce is to endeavor to induce the large cities to begin repainting their public buildings as well as private dwellings on a large scale. It was pointed out that this would increase the consumption of paint which is made up of a very large percentage of lead, and that, if the movement is successful, it not only will do good in the improvement of the appearance of communities, to say nothing of the improvement of sanitary conditions, but will in a very short time remove the present embarrassing surplus of lead.

#### The Opening.

The International Convention opened at 10.30 o'clock on Monday morning, March 17th, a short address of welcome being delivered by Acting Mayor Woodside. He congratulated the Chamber of Mines on the representative character of the gathering, referred to the importance of the mining industry to Vancouver as well as to the country generally and assured the visitors of the hospitality of the city of Vancouver. He advanced the suggestion that the work of opening up mining possibilities of the Province might be greatly assisted by the returned soldiers. There were many of these men unquestionably who would not wish to go on the land, and it was his opinion that the Government would be well advised to extent those who might wish to prospect what small assistance might be necessary. He concluded by expressing himself as assured that the deliberations would be productive of much good, and the hope that all associated with the gathering would have not only a profitable, but an enjoyable time.

Mr. A. M. Whiteside, President of the B.C. Chamber of Mines followed. His discourse was the same general character as the preceding speaker, but he continued by giving an outline of the programme prepared for the entertainment and edification of the delegates. Honorable William Sloan, Minister of Mines, then was introduced and formally opened the Convention in the following terms: