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We have to request the indulgence of our readers for the delay in the appearance of this month's issue of the MINING RECORD. This delay was occasioned by a desire on our part to publish a verbatim report of the Mining Convention proceedings, but at the last moment it was realised that to await transcript of the voluminous notes would mean practically that there would be no March issue at all. The present issue is, therefore, published as usual, but next month we shall print a Convention Number, which will contain a full report of the speeches delivered and the resolutions passed at what was undoubtedly the most important and representative gathering of its kind that has ever been held in British Columbia.

THE MINING CONVENTION.

(By Clive Phillipps-Wolley.)

AS far as one's memory serves, and we admit that it is hazy, there was once a professor named Frankenstein who set himself to make a man, which (not "who," for it was a machine) should live to perform all the ordinary functions of a man, and of course be the slave of its creator.

The professor partially succeeded. His man walked, talked, and could do all manner of work, but it would not obey its maker. On the contrary, the Giant Creation took charge of its Creator.

That in a nutshell is to our mind the story of the greatest creation of modern times in British Columbia, the story of the Provincial Mining Association.

A certain number of extremely energetic and well meaning gentlemen, occupied for the most part in the mining of gold gravels, created this association for the general welfare and their own particular profit, which was reasonable. They even outlined for their creature a mind and intentions which might be announced to the world before its christening.

On the faith of these declared intentions, the creature found many sponsors and friends in all classes of the community.

Whether the creators quite meant all that they promised may be doubted now in view of the declarations made at the late convention with regard to the admission of labour disputes, the duty of advising the Legislature, etc., etc., but what they meant matters little.

They builded better than they knew. The great creature was stronger than its creators and insisted upon every letter of its constitution.

The miners, farmers, business men and others directly interested in the mining industry had been told by the parents of the association that its objects would be the general welfare of British Columbia, which would assuredly follow upon the prosperity of mining, and that this prosperity could only be attained by an abolition of unjust mining laws; the introduction of conditions likely to attract foreign capital; the settling of labour troubles; the education of our legislators in mining matters by specialists in mining, etc.

When the associates met to organize, they were nearly 300 strong and not only were all classes and all geographical divisions in British Columbia represented but from the pithiness of the debates it would almost seem as if the brains of the country were also represented.

But when the associates had been convened, it seemed for a doubtful day that the matters to be discussed were indeed as represented, but that the only *urgent* matters were the two per cent. tax upon gross output; the granting of Crown grants to hydraulic properties; the endorsement of the silver-lead miners' London resolution and several minor matters, all tending to lessen the burden upon the mine owner.

After listening attentively for a day the creature woke and proved that it was intelligent.

It said practically "the two per cent. tax is really a small matter. In the gross it only amounts to \$84,000 and the amount paid under it by some of the biggest of the grumblers is so small that I will spare their feelings by not calling for figures. But the incidence of this tax is unjust, and it may indeed be a bugbear which keeps out foreign capital and therefore I, because I believe these things and believe that the removal of the two