Public Elevators Discussed.

At midweek, Winnipeg grain dealers stated their views before the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature with regard to Government ownership of elevators. The deputation objected to the Government bill in its entirety, on the double ground that its proposals not only were unfair but would not pay. They considered that the whole agitation on the matter had been worked up by the Grain Growers Co., which would reap the benefit of a Government system of storage. It was also pointed out that there were serious legal difficulties in the way, and that the system would probably require concurrent legislation by the Dominion Parliament before it could be made workable.

The deputation consisted of W. H. McWilliams, S. P. Clarke, N. W. McWilliams, Robert Evans, C. H. Leamen, C. B. Piper, F. A. Fowler and A. J. Andrews.

Mr. Fowler of the Grain Exchange, expressed the conviction that the elevators as a purely storage proposition could not be made to pay. He had tried it in 1890, and nearly went broke, and others had the same experience. He also pointed out that fifty-seven per cent. of the wheat in this country is bought by the waggon-load. With a mill elevator in a town buying wheat and a Government elevator used only for storage, the result would be that competition would be eliminated to an extent which the grain growers did not appreciate.

The Legislature prorogued on Wednesday after passing the Elevator Bill. The two important changes were made, the appropriation clause being eliminated, while the 60 per cent. petition clause was amended so that this applies only to points where the Government will be asked to construct new elevators. The bill as finally passed contained these amendments. No change was made in the character of the commission, and it will remain responsible to the Government.

The abattoir bill was among those which were approved by the House. A few minor amendments to this measure had been made in committee, one of which provides that the municipality which accepts the Government's offer of $50,000 for the establishment of a public abattoir be given power to raise debentures to the amount of $250,000.

The Manitoba Workmen's Compensation Bill, this week, passed the law amendment committee of the Legislature and will now become law. The clause in it extending its operation to agricultural laborers was stricken out.

It is announced that the Canadian Bank of Commerce will shortly make use of adjoining space to practically double the size of its present Winnipeg building. When the Winnipeg office was built, not so very many years ago, it was thought that it would be large enough for all time.

A permit for the new Bank of Montreal building was issued this week. The cost of the building is stated to be a million dollars.

THE NEW YORK CENTRAL LINES, like the Baltimore and Ohio, are effecting a compromise settlement with their employees. It is hoped that other railway wage disputes are on the way to being amicably settled. The Western firemen's strike seems now averted. Canadian railroad employees are calling for higher wages, but thus far it looks as though consultation rather than "striking" is to be restored to.

Mines and Mining.

THE CROW'S NEST PASS COAL COMPANY'S annual meeting brought no resumption of dividend on common stock. Net profits for the year amounted to $145,029.29, which, added to the balance at credit on December 31, 1908, gave a balance at profit and loss of $156,025.12. The assets amount to $7,820,322, made up of $6,655,715, representing real estate, plant, development, etc.; $709,804 in securities, $430,760 in accounts receivable and $24,041 in cash. Liabilities are: Capital stock paid up, $6,212,666; bills payable, $1,221,134; accounts payable, $230,495, and profit and loss, $156,025.

The output of the mines during the year was 899,045 tons, while 250,254 tons of coke was produced.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S mining progress continues steadily. Guggenheim interests have lately dealt in copper prospects on Moresly Island in the Queen Charlottes, and J. Piermont Morgan is reported as having bought into the famous Swede group. It is stated that a smelter will soon be erected on the Swede group to handle all the ores of the Queen Charlottes.

A PARTY OF MINERALOGISTS is likely to be sent out by the Quebec Government to spend the entire summer in the Chibogamoo district, making a thorough inspection of the mineral resources. Already provisions are being shipped to the North, where a base of supplies is being established to provide for the party during their summer work.

ORE RECEIPTS at Trail Smelter of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, for week ending March 5 and year to date:—

	Week. Tons.	Year. Tons.
Centre Star	4,168	33,639
St. Eugene (concentrates)	602	3,811
Snowshoe	4,417	35,719
Richmond-Eureka	33	894
Sullivan	261	1,444
Other mines	1,721	17,715
Total	11,256	93,222

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Montreal Mining Exchange was held this week, the following officers being elected:—W. I. Fenwick, President; Harrison B. Young, Vice-President; R. W. Garth, Secretary-Treasurer; J. W. Michaud and L. J. DesRosiers, Committee.

CROWN RESERVE'S dividend for the current quarter is at the rate of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 9 per cent., making a total dividend of 15 per cent. The dividend is payable April 13, to shareholders of record April 1; books close from April 1 to 15.

IN COBALT OUTPUT last week, La Rose was the leader, sending out 187 tons. Nipissing was second with 156 tons, and between them these two mines account for two-thirds of the entire output, which weighed 540.90 tons.

THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE estimates that the mineral production for the British Columbia coast district in 1909 was about $6,200,000—a total of over $50,000,000 having been mined in the last ten years.

HAILEYBURY SILVER has declared another 50 p. c. dividend, which makes a total disbursement of 100 per cent. by the company to date.