

States, have faith that through such representation is presented the basis of good English law, in the application and enforcement of which lie all the enjoyment of education and prosperity and progress. Therefore, in responding to this toast, I do not think that I can refer more fittingly to Mr. Cleveland and the common interests binding English speaking people together, than by referring to the fact—so far as telegrams received to-day assert—that Mr. Cleveland has risen to the occasion as the representative of law and order and their enforcement in connection with the troubles in the United States. (Applause.) Perhaps I may still further and more emphatically refer to this common interest, standing as I do upon Canadian soil and under the flag of England, by presuming to say that this province and more especially this locality is receiving to-day some co-operation and benefit, I trust from American capital, and from American energy and business men. (Applause.)

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

HON. SENATOR McDONALD—In responding to the toast of the Governor General of Canada, said: I thank you very much for the manner in which you have received this toast. As the only member of the Upper House here to-night, I may say the present Governor General is one of the most popular representatives of Her Majesty we have ever had, if indeed not the most popular. His career in the Old Country and in Ireland gave warrant for anticipating his popularity with ourselves; and time has fulfilled our anticipations. With regard to the Senate it serves its purpose in the Dominion. It is composed of eighty gentlemen, many of them old men. Perhaps I am one of the youngest. It is a very healthy place; and those who get there live to a great age. I am sorry to say two of our Senators died lately, one at the age of ninety and the other at eighty-six. I think that is about the average. Regarding the House of Commons, I am sorry to say it is not so healthy a place as the Senate. You will best appreciate that truth when I say that the members of it are at present engaged in their parliamentary duties with the thermometer at about one hundred degrees in the shade. These gentlemen—as if their routine duties were not a sufficient burden—are constantly tormented by their friends from the various constituencies, who want breakwaters and bridges and things of that sort. So that the House of Commons is an unhealthy place. However, those who have good constitutions can pull through, and of course they are all desirous and hopeful of some day getting into the Senate.

THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA.

THE CHAIRMAN—In proposing the health of the Local Government and of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, said: In this connection I am glad to have the honor of being able to mention the name of the Premier, the Hon. Mr. Fielding. I am sure you are all pleased to see him here to-night. I think the name of Mr. Fielding is deserving of more than passing notice, especially on an occasion of this kind. Mr. Fielding has been obliged to take the responsibility of being instrumental in forming the Dominion Coal Company of which there are a great many representatives around this board. The Dominion Coal Company, I take it, had more or less to do with the erection of this hotel; and without the hotel I think it would have been almost impossible for us to have this gathering. No other building in Sydney would have been able to accommodate so many representatives from different parts of Canada. Hence it is, I think you will agree with me, that this gathering is due more or less to our honorable friend the Premier of Nova Scotia.

HON. W. S. FIELDING—I thank you very warmly indeed for the more than kind terms in which you have proposed this toast, and for the way it has been received. I am sure that if the Lieutenant Governor were here to-night, it would afford him great pleasure, and he would appreciate the reference made to his name. I am very glad to be able to say that in connection with the welfare of this country he is manifesting a very warm interest. The toast of the local government is of a compound nature. It is of a personal and also of a broader character. As personal, I on behalf of my colleagues and myself appreciate sincerely the very warm references made. In the broader spirit you toast the local government not because you honor the men who hold office, but because the local government represents the law and order which are the foundation of Society and represent the Anglo-Saxon race.

There is a tendency to underestimate the value of the local government and legislature. There was a time when many able men doubted whether it was wise to have other than one government and one legislature for the whole country. I rejoice to say that it was recognized that such a policy would be a mistake; and so we have a distribution of legislative power—a distribution of power that is important. And if our friends of the Dominion Parliament two of whom sit on my right to-night, are disposed to magnify the importance of their office, I am glad to say that whenever we meet the Mining Societies then the local legislature comes on top, for what could you do without the local government? (Cheers.) If you want to get down to the business of mining, you have got to come up to the local government at Halifax and take off your hat! (Hear, hear.)

Now, without underestimating the things done at Ottawa, it is a fact that within the functions of the local legislature there is room for great and good work; and I trust there will never be a time when the people will fail to take a warm interest in the affairs of the local legislature and the sending to it of proper men to discuss its questions, none of which are more important than that relating to mines and minerals.

I realize the fact that this enterprise has been like nearly everything that may arise under our system of party government; a matter of honest difference of opinion which appertains to party strife. Our party system of government has its advantages and disadvantages. One disadvantage is that when a measure of importance such as that relating to the organization of the Dominion Coal Company is presented, we are all prone to look at it in a biased way. But the advantage is that if it proves it is able to stand the test of party strife put upon it, and comes therefrom whole, there must be some good in it. I do not question the motive of any man who says the scheme was a bad one. I respect his judgment as I would ask that my own be respected. Yet every hour I spend in the County of Cape Breton confirms my judgment. I affirm this scheme was a good thing for Cape Breton. (Loud applause.) I do not imagine it is perfect. You must not expect perfection—even from such a good government as exists at Halifax. I know it is true that in matters of this character personal interests and local interests will suffer. But making an allowance for them all—and they are incidental to every great enterprise—I am persuaded that upon the whole the scheme of organization of the Company was for the benefit of Nova Scotia. It has received the approval of the government and legislature whether it deserved it or not. It has received the approval of the mass of the people of Nova Scotia, and is now arrived at a stage that is beyond any party strife.

If when you come into the County of Cape Breton and wish to see the monument of the financial promoters of this enterprise, you have but to look around you! I have faith in the enterprise, which these gentlemen undertook, for one simple reason; and that is, that from the beginning to the end I viewed it as a business enterprise. (Applause.) I never supposed that Mr. McKeen had any idea of entering the company from a spirit of benevolence or that Americans came for their health. They realize that the progress of the age is such that many things which were conducted in a small way can no longer be conducted in that way; and that if we are to keep pace with the times, we must have capital, regardless of nationality. (Applause.) We must welcome it from whatever

source it may come. And so long as it conduces to the development of the resources of Nova Scotia, let us all welcome it. Let us hope that as time rolls on we will be able to understand these things better; and that no occasion will arise in the future for making this matter one of party contention. We shall be able to see the benefits of this scheme, whatever may be said to the contrary, if we have one object in view—the benefit of Nova Scotia! (Hear, hear.) A word respecting my friends of the Mining Society. It is not the first time I have had the pleasure of being among them; but though I have had pleasant times indeed with them, on no occasion have I experienced greater delight than on the present. I have to thank you all again most cordially for the kind words you have spoken on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor the Government and the Parliament of Nova Scotia. (Loud applause.)

DR. MCKAY—As representative of this county, it affords me much pleasure to address the members of the mining societies on this their first visit to the County of Cape Breton. Cape Breton is the geologist's paradise. I think some one has said that four square miles of the earth is sufficient to employ a scientific man for the whole of his life time; and if that be true, we have in Cape Breton sufficient area of an interesting character to employ the members of the societies of the Dominion of Canada for the natural period of their lives. I think we can give you various geological forms which would employ your time during the natural period of your lives. If this is the first occasion we have had of meeting you, I trust it will not be the last. We are heartily glad to have you come to this county; and as a representative of it I am sure I express the feeling of the people when I say it is a red letter day for us. There was a time in the history of this country when our mining affairs were at a very low ebb. And there are those who will tell you that we are a people without ambition—a people incapable of improving what is within their reach. I give that a most emphatic and indignant denial. (Applause.) Our country produced men who have given you what you have seen around you. (Applause.) It has produced a McKeen—it has provided those men who have in turn produced order and prosperity out of chaos. When they saw confusion, these men at the head of mining affairs in Cape Breton took these mining institutes and built them up, and produced what you have seen through the mines. And, sir, I say that when I hear that we have no enterprise, no energy, I say you must go back to the time when mining operations were more difficult—you must look back to the men who were the backbone and sinew of the mining industries of the time and of Cape Breton!

THE QUEBEC MINING ASSOCIATION.

The next toast was that of the General Mining Association of Quebec and the Mining Institute of Ontario, coupled with it the names of Mr. John Blue, Capelton; Mr. B. T. A. Bell, Ottawa; and Mr. W. Hamilton Merritt, Toronto.

MR. JOHN BLUE—I thank you most cordially for the toast given. You have met and welcomed and treated us in a manner that it would be impossible for us to forget. You most assuredly have learned the art of entertaining, which, coupled with your warm native hospitality, is irresistible. When we come again, as you have so cordially invited us to do, we hope to be able to come in greater numbers, and that we shall enjoy ourselves literally as well as in anticipation goes without saying. As to the mining interests of our province, I regret to say they are not at the present moment in a flourishing condition. In the western part of the province the phosphate industry is practically in a state of collapse. And this, too, in the face of the fact that the Buckingham district has the richest minerals of the kind in the world. We are hopeful of better times, and that they may come soon. In the same region mica has been worked more or less on a small scale; but a little mica goes a long way. Coming farther east, the district where we mine pyrites, associated with copper and silver, the market is in very little better condition. We still keep working, but have come to the conclusion that our ore is of more value in the mine than in the market. The bright spot in the gloomy prospect is Asbestos; and in this, I am glad to be able to say, a considerable improvement has been made of late, especially regarding demand. Prices are not improving very much; but as long as the demand continues, we may hope that the prices themselves will improve shortly. In the same district there has been a new find which has created a little excitement, and which we hope may be a very profitable industry. This we have found to be chronic iron; and shipments are being sent to the United States at a good margin of profit to the operators.

As far as our Association is concerned, I am proud to say, that notwithstanding all the conditions I have referred to, we still exist; and not only do we exist, but we are growing steadily and accomplishing good work for our province. We are to-day numerically stronger than ever; and are in a better condition financially, and beginning to be known and recognised; and that means power and influence in our province. We have a good deal to thank our worthy Secretary for. We have to thank him in a great measure for our success. Mr. Bell has been indefatigable in his exertions on our behalf. I might say, too, that he and I as a combination are pretty well known, that is, wherever the English language is spoken. I do not mean to insinuate that our names are likely to go down to posterity for heroic deeds or words or works; but I venture to predict that the blue-bells of Scotland will live in song forever. (Applause.)

MR. B. T. A. BELL—I feel that after what has been said by our esteemed President, any further remarks from me at this hour would be presumption and a trespass upon your good nature. But I will say this: That we appreciate to the full the unbounded hospitality that has characterized the proceedings of this most interesting and enjoyable meeting, and that we are deeply sensible of the efforts which have been made so successfully to entertain us in a truly royal manner. I am sure I not only voice the sentiments of each member of our Association present, and none the less so of those who were so unfortunate as to be unable to come, when I say we hope, at no distant date, to be able to reciprocate in some measure at least, the attentions and courtesies that have been showered upon us. We will carry back with us an undying memory of your genial hospitality, your beautiful country, its productiveness and unbounded mineral resources.

MR. HAMILTON MERRITT—I rise with mixed feelings at this hour of the evening. After such a magnificent feast as we have partaken of, it would be difficult to rise otherwise. But the sensation which preponderates is one of gratification at the honor done me in asking me to respond to this toast. The other feeling is one of mild resentment at the annexation which has taken place between Ontario and Quebec. I am an Ontario man, and represent—so far as I can represent an institution which is the guest of another institution—the Ontario Mining Institute. And I may say I thank cordially the Quebec Mining Association for allowing me to be indirectly a guest at this banquet; and on behalf of the Ontario Mining Institute, my thanks can scarcely be put in fitting words. Our Mining Institute in Ontario, which also has been set well going chiefly through its indefatigable Secretary, Mr. B. T. A. Bell, is very young; but we hope that some day it will safely arrive at a growth of importance. We are here in a humble way to learn what we can of the mining operations, which sturdy industry and ability have brought about in this Canada of ours, and of which Canadians in all provinces are proud. Those of us who take an interest in Canada feel very proud indeed of the mining operations of Nova Scotia, which have been brought to such a high state of perfection. (Applause.)

Owing to the unavoidable absence from the room of President Hardman the toast of the Mining Society was not responded to.