

Second International Mining Convention

Seattle Meeting Was a Success—Large Interest in Papers and Discussions—Convention Favored Tax on Gold Used in the Arts to Bonus Gold Mining.

The second International Mining Convention (the first was held in Vancouver, March, 1919) was held in Seattle, from April 7th to 10th. The mining interests of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon were well represented at the sessions. The convention took for its motto "The Rim of the Pacific," by which it is meant that the mining interests of those countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean were included within the scope of the activities of the convention. At the opening session this idea was made evident by the responses. After being welcomed by the chairman of the Convention, Mr. G. A. Collins, of Seattle, and being welcomed by the mayor of Seattle and the governor of Washington, Bishop Rowe, of Alaska, responded for that promising mining territory, Dr. E. T. Hodge, president of the British Columbia Chamber of Mines, Vancouver, responded for British Columbia. The Chilean counsel, Mr. Santandar, responded for Latin American, and Mr. L. G. Kay, of Canton, China, responded for the Orient.

The iron and steel resources of the Pacific Northwest were discussed by Professor Milnor Roberts, of the University of Washington, and the magnetite resources of the Pacific Coast were discussed by Mr. Ernest M. Patty, of the Washington Geological Survey, and Mr. G. E. Whitwell, of the University of Washington. Refractory deposits and their uses were discussed by Mr. Hewitt Wilson, professor of ceramics in the University of Washington.

Mr. T. A. Rickard, editor of Mining and Scientific Press, San Francisco, delivered a charming paper on the romance and philosophy of mining discovery, narrating the development of the prospectors' art and recounting the discovery and development of the world's great mines. Mr. Joseph Daniels, professor of mining, University of Washington, presented a paper on the "Uses and Treatment of Coal Found in the Pacific Northwest," and showed the enormous waste involved in the handling and treatment of our Northwestern deposits. Mr. C. P. Bowie, of the United States Bureau of Mines, contributed a paper on the "Petroleum Resources of the Pacific Northwest." The paper contained a general survey of Pacific Coast oil resources and development, both those obtaining in North and South America and also in the Orient.

An important feature of the programme was the presentation of "The Water Power Resources of the Northwest," by Mr. J. C. Ralston, consulting engineer, Spokane, Washington, and also by Mr. O. C. Ralston, of the United States Bureau of Mines, on the "Electro Metallurgical Opportunities of the Pacific Coast." The first paper, that on "Water Power Resources," traced the growth of water power development and the great advances which had recently been made in economic and efficient transmission of electrical power, extending by many times the ordinary accepted ideas of water power uses and area of economic transmission. The paper of Mr. O. C. Ralston took up the subject where that of Mr. J. C. Ralston's ended, and applied the uses which could be made of this large water power resource of the Pacific Northwest to the treatment of metallurgical and chemical deposits known to exist in this territory, and the ramifications of production which are involved.

"The gold problem was the outstanding feature of the Convention. Due to the rising costs of mining and to the

fact that gold is not considered a commodity but a standard of value, it has not had the opportunity of advancing with the general rise in prices of other metals and commodities, in consequence of which gold mining has seriously been curtailed during this period. The gold problem was handled on the one hand by Professor Custis, of the University of Washington, and by the Hon. Emmett D. Boyle, Governor of the State of Nevada. Professor Custis argued from the point of view that the reason the price of gold did not advance was that there was too much. By reducing the amount of gold there would be forced a reduction in the amount of paper currency covered by gold, and this would in return result in deflation, which would cause a fall in price, or what is an equivalent, an advance in gold as metallic money. Governor Boyle hinged his remarks on the inadequacy of the gold supply and the tremendous reduction in gold output. What was needed was greater production, and increasing gold cover of currency. Governor Boyle spoke of the use of the gold in the arts, which in the United States was more than exceeding the annual gold production of that country. Mr. John Clausen, of the Union National Bank, Seattle, contributed to the discussion, and finally Mr. E. G. Crawford, of the United States National Bank, Portland, Oregon, and Mr. Frank A. Vanderbilt, formerly president of the National City Bank, New York, also contributed valuable discussions.

Governor Boyle, despite opposition from banking interests, was able to carry the Convention in favor of the McFadden Bill, now before the House of Representatives, at Washington. This bill provides for a tax of fifty cents per pennyweight, or \$10 per ounce. This was a tax on gold used in the arts and to be used for the bonusing of gold production by the same amount. It does not effect the production of gold going into currency or cover for currency, or deposited with the various mints, but only that gold which is used by jewelers and industries, involving metallic gold, and the tax derived therefrom under proper supervision will be handed over to the miner on actual production of gold from the earth.

The resolutions committee recommended this bill to the Convention where it was unanimously passed. The Free Silver plank, on the basis of free coinage of silver at the ratio of ten to one, was introduced, but the resolutions committee decided to hold this matter over until the next convention, which the delegates unanimously voted to hold at Portland, Oregon.

The Convention concluded its activities with a visit to the Tacoma smelter, just outside the city of Tacoma, and on the afternoon of the 10th the delegates disbursed to their various homes.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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"Any dispute between the Comptroller-General and the departments relating to expenditure is dealt with by the Treasury Board, upon appeal from the Comptroller-General's decision.

"The method in vogue in British Columbia under which all disbursements of employees in connection with travelling expenses are supervised, acts as a check upon one large item of expenditure and is worthy of comment. A memorandum of these disbursements must be sent in, in detail, accompanied by a weekly report, to the department concerned, which files the report and, after approval, passes on the expense voucher to the Comptrolling and Audit branch for payment.

"There is a Public Accounts Committee, composed of representatives of both sides of the House, which deals with