The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-FOURT YEAR — VICTORIA B. C. TUESDAY MARCH 3, 1903. — VOLUME LXVI

Urges Government to Try And Settle Labor Disputes

The British Columbia Mining Association Takes Important Action at Big Convention.

JOHN KEEN, OF KASLO, ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY

Labor and Capital Join Hands in Amity For the Success of the Organization--An Effort for Industrial Peace.

President—John Keen (Kaslo).
First Vice-President—J. B. Hobson (Bullion).
Second Vice-President—D. W. Higgins (Victoria).
Secretary—A. L. Belyea (Victoria).
Assistant Secretary — Marston Williams (Victoria).
Treasurer—A. B. Fraser, sr. (Victoria).
Executive Committee—Harry Seaman, M. McAndrews, Chris Foley, P. J. Pearson, F. Dockrell, Leslie Hill, E. B. Kirby, Henry Croft, W. M. Brewer, John H. Tonkin, H. G. Bellinger, A. J. Gobbell, W. H. Aldridge, J. J. Campbell, A. C. Flumerfelt, S. S. Taylor, A. C. Galt, A. C. Howse, C. Sweeney, L. W. Shatford, C. Phillipps-Wolley, T. Borland, W. McLean, M. Lehman.

Yesterday was "my busy day" with the monster mining convention now in progress in the city of Victoria. Morning, afternoon and evening sessions were held, and a vast amount of important business transacted. The constitution and bylaws were adopted, officers were elected, as set forth at the head of this column, and resolutions were passed urging the government to take steps calculated to prevent the occurrence of disastrous disputes between capital and labor.

The minutes of the previous sessions were read and adopted. The chairman announced that a telegram had been received from Ottawa, from the secretary of state, saying that the resolution endorsing the silver-lead miners application had been received and referred to the privy council.

George Sheldon Williams moved that the C. P. R. extend time of railway ticket limits so that delegates could remain a longer time if they wished. Agreed to.

D. W. Higgins moved that H. G. Scott be named as a delegate in place of Mr. Spicer. Carried.

Section 8 of the constitution was next considered. The joint committee reported the following resolution as having been unanimously accepted.

"That article 4, section 8 of the constitution be amended to read:

"'This Association shall be non-political, and shall not permit discussion in any of its conventions or meetings on social problems; nor shall it interfere in any way with labor unions; provided, however, that the Association shall be at liberty to use its good offices in adjusting and settling mining labor difficulties.'"

Mr. Haggan moved that section 1, article 2, be recommitted. Mr. Bolden seconded. The motion was lost.

The constitution and by-laws were adopted as read, amidst applause. A vote of thanks was tendered the committee on constitution and by-laws.

Mr. Hideman moved that the association ratify all previous acts of the convention before the constitution was adopted.

C. Dubois Mason, Atlin, pointed out that it was desirable to have the annual meetings at a time favorable to the visit of representatives from all over the country.

Mr. Hideman's motion was carried.

Mr. Galt moved, seconded by Mr. Hobson, as follows:

"That having regard to the laxity which has heretofore prevailed in the Legislature of British Columbia in the enactment of laws affecting the mining industry and the serious difficulties occasioned thereby, and having regard to the widely representative character of the Association, and the fact that it includes within its membership many of the most competent authorities in this province to advise upon all matters affecting the mining industry. This Association do respectfully urge upon the government and Legislature of British Columbia the advisability of enacting that no legislation whatever affecting the mineral industry or any branch thereof shall be introduced unless the same has been approved by this Association, or unless the Association has been given a reasonable period not less than three weeks within which to consider and advise upon such intended legislation."

Mr. Galt thought that one of the most important functions of the association would be to make recommendations to the legislature. If what was intended by the resolution was followed by the government the danger of pernicious legislation would be almost entirely removed. Such a body of experts as was comprised in the association should always be consulted by the government.

Mr. Seaman, Rossland, did not think it was just to the people of British Columbia that there was a disposition to disregard the interests of labor.

Mr. Galt said that Mr. Seaman had quite mistaken the intent of the resolution.

Mr. Lugrin wanted it laid on the table.

Mr. Haggan strongly approved of the spirit of the resolution.

Mr. Howse did not think the labor men need fear that their interests would not be protected.

Chris. Foley believed the labor man, as well as the capitalist, should discuss all questions affecting mining legislation, and give the government the benefit of their wisdom.

Mr. Marsh, Rossland, and Mr. McMillan, Rossland, endorsed the resolution.

Mr. Lugrin wanted it laid upon the table. It was a dangerous resolution. If the association wanted first to discuss the legislation, why should not grocers, etc., ask the government to do the same when their interests were involved. Such a system would be an end of a responsible government, and the creation of a number of irresponsible bodies to which legislation must be referred. The proposal was a preposterous one.

The resolution was laid upon the table.

Mr. Hunter presented a petition from the working miners of Barkerville.

The petition was as follows:

"That we, the miners of Cariboo, beg leave to submit that John Hopp, D. C. Laird and H. E. C. Cary, who were elected delegates at Barkerville, do not represent the miners or their sentiments:

"That contrary to the views of some delegates we are strongly opposed to the granting of crown grants for placer mining, believing that the same would be detrimental to the interests of all miners:

"Resolved, That a better title be given placer leases by the assurance of the renewal of the lease on expiration, said renewal to be on the terms and conditions of the original, if so received by the lessee:

"Resolved, That considering the fact that mineral and placer propositions are usually equally costly to develop, and that it costs as much or more to develop a placer lease as a mineral claim, that, therefore, they be placed on an equal footing as regards work, and that in charging royalty, consideration be taken of the cost of development."

It was laid upon the table.

Mr. Hobson asked that Mr. Hunter should present the views of all the placer miners of Cariboo.

Mr. Hunter essayed to reply, but the chair declared he was out of order.

The report of the committee on resolutions was taken from the table to consider boiler inspection clause.

Mr. Emery moved that section 3 be struck out.

Mr. Hunter thought the resolution was a most dangerous proposition. The bill was passed solely in the interests of the lives of the working miners and it should not be repealed on the hurried suggestion from this convention.

Mr. Kirby, Rossland, explained some of the peculiar effects of the act. Of those who owned and operated boilers only a portion had occasion to investigate the operation of the act. His company had found its provisions were more severe than the regulations in any other portion of the country. Boiler plants purchased in Canada and the United States, now in operation, were suddenly brought under the regulations of the act hastily applied and seriously affected by its terms. The new rules cut down the efficiency of the pressure of costly plants bought before the passage of the act under the engineering practice in the United States and Canada. It was now only intended to ask the legislature to amend the act.

Mr. Kirby's amendment asked for an investigation of the act on the part of the government.

Mayor Dean, of Rossland, was of the opinion that when insurance companies took risks on boilers the inspection they made was a good guarantee of safety. In any change he favored the appointment of an inspector-general of insurance who made periodical reports to the government.

Mr. Odell, Greenwood, claimed that the law was unusually severe. He would leave a decision to the men who worked around the boilers and the engineers.

Mr. Wolfenden, Armstrong, said the engineers of his district approved of the act.

Mr. Galt pointed out how great a burden was imposed on the mine owners owing to the operation of the act. A slight accident necessitated the closing down of the mine until the boiler inspector could be found—often a matter of several days.

Mr. Gaunce, Greenwood, said Mr. Kirby's amendment ought to be carried without further discussion. The amendment carried.

Mr. Pearson, Chemainus, favored the reconsideration of the amendment.

He was out of order.

Election of officers was then proceeded with.

Mr. Haggan nominated Mr. Keen for the position of president; Mr. Higgins seconded the nomination.

Mr. Keen would like to have Mr. Hobson given that honor.

Mr. Galt nominated Mr. J. B. Hobson for the position, and supported his candidature in a strong speech, eliciting loud applause.

Mr. Taylor, K. C., Nelson, said the success of the affair was due entirely to the efforts of Mr. Hobson, who should be given the honor.

Mr. Keen asked that his name be withdrawn from nomination in favor of Mr. Hobson.

Mr. Belyea spoke strongly in favor of the election of Mr. Hobson, who had worked nobly for the success of the association.

Mr. Seaman supported the nomination of Mr. Keen.

Mr. Smith, Vancouver, complimented Mr. Keen, whose candidature he favored.

Mr. Keen said he would consent to take vice-presidency under Mr. Hobson. (Cheers.)

Mr. Haggan of Revelstoke, and Mr. Bolden of Victoria, strongly supported Mr. Keen for the position of president, as he was not a representative of the capitalistic class.

Mr. Keen was elected on the first ballot by a good majority and Mr. Hobson as vice-president. Amidst cheers the vote was made unanimous.

Mr. Keen, on taking the chair, was cheered to the echo. He was sorry they did not take his advice; but as they did not, he would always do the best for the interests of the association. (Cheers.) He advised them to elect an executive in which they had full confidence. (Applause.)

A. L. Belyea, K. C., was nominated for the position of secretary.

H. Mortimer Lamb and George McDonald of Nelson were also nominated.

Mayor Burril, of Grand Forks, favored applications being called for for the position.

Clive Phillipps-Wolley made a speech strongly supporting the candidature of Mr. Lamb.

A ballot was then taken which resulted in the election of Mr. Belyea on the following vote: Belyea, 66; Lamb, 64; McDonald, 28.

The point was raised that another vote should be taken, the low man dropping out.

Mr. Higgins gave it as his opinion that the majority vote settled the question. This was always the practice. The convention agreed with Mr. Higgins.

Mr. Lamb was proposed for the position of assistant secretary. He declined the honor, and nominated Mr. Marston Williams for the position. On a unanimous vote Mr. Williams was appointed to the position.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Lamb on his retirement.

A. B. Fraser, sr., was unanimously elected to the position of treasurer. Mr. Fraser in a neat speech acknowledged the honor which had been conferred upon him.

An adjournment was taken until 4 o'clock on the understanding that the next item of business would be the election of the executive committee.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The chairman explained that as a great amount of work was to be done, it would perhaps be desirable to remain over until Monday.

Mr. Gaunce, seconded by Mr. Burril, moved that the convention resolve itself into five sections, representing the different classes, so that a representative body of men could be obtained for the executive committee.

An adjournment of 20 minutes was taken, the motion carrying unanimously.

On the convention re-assembling, the executive committee was proposed to be made up of the following:

CLASS 1 (Miners and Prospectors).

Boundary, Rossland and Similkameen—Harry Seaman.

Slocan, Laideau and Kamloops—M. McAndrews.

Lower Mainland Coast—Chris Foley.

Vancouver Island—B. J. Pearson.

Cariboo, Atlin and Omineca—F. Dockrell.

CLASS 2 (Mine Managers and Owners)

Silver, Lead and Copper—Leslie Hill, Nelson; Edmund B. Kirby, Rossland; Henry Croft, Crofton (Vancouver Island).

Placer—W. M. Brewer, Revelstoke.

Coal—John H. Tonkin, Fernie.

CLASS 3 (Smelters).

H. C. Bellinger, A. J. Godell, W. H. Aldridge, J. J. Campbell, A. C. Flumerfelt.

CLASS 4 (Business and Professional Men).

S. S. Taylor, K. C., Nelson; A. C. Galt, Rossland; A. E. Howse, Nicola; C. Sweener, Vancouver; L. W. Shatford, Fairview.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

AT A LATE HOUR YESTERDAY EVENING BEFORE THE CONVENTION ADJOURNED, HON. COL. PRIOR, THE PREMIER, ANNOUNCED, AMIDST TREMENDOUS CHEERING, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DEFRAY ALL EXPENSES TO SEND AT ONCE A DELEGATION CHOSEN BY THE CONVENTION TO FERNIE IN AN ATTEMPT TO SETTLE THE DISASTROUS COAL STRIKE AT THAT POINT.

MACKENZIE KING, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOR, WHO IS NOW AT FERNIE, WILL BE AT ONCE COMMUNICATED WITH AND SHOULD HE DESIRE IT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEND THE COMMISSION AT ONCE. SHOULD MR. KING BE UNABLE TO SETTLE THE STRIKE THROUGH HIS OWN EFFORTS, THE COMMISSION WILL GO ANYWAY AND MAKE A SECOND ATTEMPT.

COL. PRIOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSED THE WILDEST ENTHUSIASM.

Resolved, That the government of British Columbia be and is hereby requested to forthwith appoint a commission of three members, whose duty it shall be to examine as fully as possible into the existing relations of employer and employee engaged in the mining industry in this province, and to gather data on the question of capital and labor therein employed; said commission to meantime be regarded as a conciliation board in any mining labor troubles that may occur, with a view to the settlement and prevention of such trade disturbances.

Mr. Hazlewood, Greenwood, said the act was all right. It should be left alone.

THE DELEGATES ENJOY AN OUTING AT FOUL BAY.

Photo Fleming

MEMBERS OF B. C. MINING CONVENTION, 1903.

Photo Jones

No Change In Strike

Winnipeg Members of Brotherhood May Go Out In Sympathy.

Some Help Has Been Secured By C. P. R. From Seattle.

Conductors And Trainmen Are Asking For Twenty Per Cent Increase.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—There is no change in the strike situation of the C. P. R. Some 30 or 40 men arrived from Seattle this morning and were put to work, and it is said that hands will arrive daily until the full complement of clerks required have been put to work. The striking Brotherhood has given its case in full to the papers, and it differs very little from what has already been published, their contention being that the C. P. R. discharged employees because they were prominent members of the Brotherhood of Railway Employees.

Today the Brotherhood of Trainmen and Railway Conductors' Unions, who have demanded a 20 per cent. increase in pay, held a conference with Superintendent Marpole. The demand is from the general union of these bodies, and takes in 36 railways. Another conference will be held with Mr. Marpole next week.

Winnipeg, Feb. 28.—(Special.)—The United Brotherhood of Railway Employees in Winnipeg may go out on strike in sympathy with the men who are out at Vancouver. A special meeting of the local division of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees will be held tomorrow afternoon to discuss the matter.

NEW APPOINTMENT.

B. M. Kelley of Portland Now Secretary Manitoba Underwriters.

Winnipeg, Feb. 28.—(Special.)—B. M. Kelley, of Portland, Ore., prominently connected for 10 years with the board of the Pacific Coast underwriters, and for the past two years manager at Portland, has been appointed secretary of the Manitoba underwriters board, succeeding R. H. Hayward, who is retiring.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Session Will Be Formally Opened on Thursday by Administrator.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—On Thursday next the first session of the tenth legislature of Ontario will be formally opened, and in all probability by the Chief Justice, who will previously be appointed administrator because of the illness of Lt.-Gov. Sir Oliver Mowat, who is slowly recovering from his recent accident. It is said W. A. Charlton, of South Norfolk is the Government choice for Speaker.

C. P. R. CHANGES.

Announcement of a New Division in West Confirmed.

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—The announcement that the C. P. R. management had decided to make a new division which will extend from Moosejaw West to Laggan, taking away from the Western division the districts governed by Supt. Bell of Moosejaw, Supt. Niblock of Calgary, and Supt. Jamieson of Cranbrook, is confirmed. The mileage of the Western division will by this change be reduced 1,411 miles, leaving it 2,556 miles trackage, and still by far the largest of any division of the road. The Western division will in future be confined to the agricultural districts of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

ARE PUZZLING THE DOCTORS

Peculiar State of Three Partly Asphyxiated Minnesota Farmers.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Winnipeg, B. C., Feb. 28.—W. Olsen, J. M. Peterson and A. J. Wilson, the three Minnesota farmers who were asphyxiated by gas at the City hotel on Thursday night, still remain in a state of unconsciousness, and there is no more change in their condition than when found locked in the gas laden room. The condition of the three men is greatly puzzling the doctors. That one man should lie in this state for this length of time would not cause much surprise, but for the three men to all be affected the same way is astonishing. They have shown no sign of life since found. Their faces are placid and to all appearances they might be sleeping healthfully. There is color in their faces, but the respiration is so slight that it hardly seems possible that they would have lived for so long. It was thought that if they could like through the night there would be hope for their recovery, but no change has occurred either for better or worse.

Election in New Brunswick

Government Sustained By a Sweeping Majority Throughout the Province.

Only Nine Opposition Men Returned to Thirty Four Tweedie Supporters.

From Our Own Correspondent.

St. John, N. B., Feb. 28.—Today's general elections resulted in a sweeping victory for the Tweedie administration. Returns up to a late hour indicate the election of 34 Government and nine Opposition members.

In St. John City, McKeown, Purdy and Robertson, Government, and Wilson, Opposition, are elected.

In York County, Allen Campbell and Burden, Government are elected by a large majority.

In Albert County, Osman and Ryan, Government, are returned.

Restigouche County, LaBillois and McHatchey, Government.

Westmorland, the Government ticket of four members is elected by 1,500 majority.

THE HIGH JOINTERS.

Cannot Meet Again Until Late in the Autumn.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—(Special)—In reference to a Washington despatch, stating that United States Senator Fairbanks had communicated to the State Department Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reply to the suggestion that the joint high commission reassemble in March, it is learned that it was intimated to Mr. Fairbanks that under the most favorable conditions the commission could not reassemble until late in the autumn. The fact that the United States' appropriation bill contains an estimate to meet the expense of the commission when they reassemble, is regarded here as most favorable, as indicating the anxiety of the United States authorities to settle the questions submitted to the commission.

KILLED ON DUTY.

Engineer Struck on the Head While Driving His Train.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 28.—When the first section of passenger train No. 5, of the Panhandle road, reached the big Walnut street bridge, just East of Columbus, today, it did not decrease its speed in obedience to the slow orders issued for the bridge last Monday, but rushed across at the rate of sixty miles an hour. Fireman Coriston looked over at Engineer Smith, and was horrified to find the engineer crouched against the reverse lever with both arms about it. When examined, a deep gash exposing the brain was found in his right temple. It is thought that while bending out of his cab window he was struck by some protruding obstacle and killed.

U. S. SENATE.

An Extra Session Will Likely Be Called on March 5.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Senatorial callers on the President regard an extraordinary session of the Senate as practically inevitable. The determination of the advocates of both the Cuban reciprocity and the Panama canal treaties to secure the ratification continued firm. If they cannot ratify them before the final adjournment of this Congress, they will do so at the extra session of the Senate that will be called by the President to meet probably at noon March 5, when no other business will be permitted to interfere.

FOR ESQUIMALT.

Draft of Men Will Start From Halifax on Tuesday.

Montreal, Feb. 28.—Five officers and 118 men of the royal navy sail from Liverpool for Esquimalt on March 3. They will be taken charge of at Halifax by the C. P. R., and carried to Victoria.

FOREIGN WARSHIPS.

Report Denied That Britain Will Buy Them.

London, Feb. 28.—The British Admiralty today denied the reports that the Government had purchased the two cruisers under construction at Genoa, Italy, for Argentine, and the two warships being constructed in England for Chili.