

Mr. D. W. HIGGINS, of Victoria.—There is a matter, Mr. Chairman, which might be referred to the Committee on Credentials, with reference to the number of Victoria and Vancouver delegates. Now, I understand according to the general plan adopted that twenty members, or one in so many, should represent the two districts. Victoria adhered to that, and has twenty delegates on the floor of this Convention, and I understand—without being aggressive, or in any way wishing to create any sectional feeling, Vancouver comes down with forty-six delegates. I think that it is a matter which should be pointed out to the Committee on Credentials, to have the Victoria deficiency made up.

Mr. Jos. HUNTER, M.P.P.—I am extremely sorry that Mr. Higgins has raised this question. We are, as it appears now, to have the usual scrap between Victoria and Vancouver. From what I can gather from the newspapers I see that there are fifty delegates to the Convention from Vancouver and twenty from Victoria. Of course that is not fair, and I think, sir, if there are 70 delegates to this Convention from Victoria and from Vancouver, taking them together, it is altogether possible that the proceedings of this Convention shall be dominated by these two cities. I am sure, sir, that no one would have any confidence in the deliberations of this committee or of this Convention if such is the case and I would therefore propose, instead of adding to the Victoria delegation it would be a graceful act to withdraw all the delegates except ten from each city, and then, sir, I am satisfied that the mining communities of British Columbia will have far more faith in the deliberations of this committee, and I would ask that they withdraw all the names from Vancouver except ten to that city, and also have Victoria do the same.

Mr. D. W. HIGGINS.—Mr. Hunter says he is sorry I have raised this question, and yet almost in the same breath he has approved of it. I merely want to put the two places on an equal representation, and I submit that Victoria is entitled to as large a representation as Vancouver, and if it is intended to reduce the number to ten for both cities I will be one of the ten from Victoria to step out, but I say let each district appoint its delegates upon the system as arranged at first, which is one out of every twenty members, and I want to know whether Vancouver is entitled to this increase in number over Victoria. I claim Victoria is entitled to 40 delegates, and if we should reduce the number of delegates, then we will lose the advice of a number of gentlemen here from Vancouver. I ask you, gentlemen, to let the matter be settled now and forever. We do not want any sectional feeling, or any feeling which will tend to create an inharmonious spirit in this Association. Mr. Hunter has presented to us what he considers to be a cure, but which would prove very shortly to be an evil if it were allowed to be continued. I move, therefore, gentlemen, that this matter be submitted to the Committee on Credentials.

Mr. CHAIRMAN.—I would like to say one word. We are here in response to this circular, which I hold in my hand, and this circular reads as follows: "Each community is entitled to send one delegate for every twenty members, or one delegate in the case of a community of less than twenty members." Now, sir, it is not in our hands to deal with this question. This is the clause in the invitation on the strength of which all the district branches have sent their delegates, and therefore I ask you all to drop the names Victoria and Vancouver, and to substitute therefor the name of British Columbia. (Applause.)

Mr. J. B. HOBSON.—Mr. Chairman, you have expressed my sentiments exactly. The provisions of the call should be complied with. Merchants, business men, professional men and farmers are here in response to the call, to aid the miners in formulating plans that will result in bettering the depressed condition of the mining industry. So I think the committee will admit all presenting credentials without reference to the number of delegates sent from any particular city, town or district of the Province. We fear no one, and I feel satisfied every man who is here to-day is here to better the conditions of the mining industry, and therefore he should be admitted. It was a great mistake to issue any limitation to the number of the delegates who should come to this Convention.

Mr. A. C. HIRSCHFIELD.—We have only twenty-two members here representing Vancouver. The names that are in the papers were the names submitted to our committee. There were also ten members selected at a special meeting, who are here to-day from the railway delegation, and which are included in those twenty-two, and that is all we have brought over from Vancouver, and we have some alternatives, but I may say here that there are only twenty-two of us here to-day. That is all I have to say to the meeting, and we did try the best we could to keep within that twenty.

Mr. D. W. HIGGINS.—After the explanation from Mr. Hirschfield, I think any further arguments are unnecessary.

Moved by Mr. Belyea, seconded by Mr. C. D. Rand, That the Convention do now proceed to the appointment of a Committee on Credentials, and that the Chairman select one member from each of the districts represented. Carried.

Mr. A. C. Hirschfield moved, seconded by Mr. A. L. Belyea, That when we do adjourn that we stand adjourned until 2:30 this afternoon to transact business, and to receive the report of the Committee on Credentials. Carried.

Mr. CHAIRMAN.—You have thrown the responsibility upon me to appoint the Committee on Credentials, and I propose to divide that responsibility. I will call out the various constituencies or districts which are represented here, and ask each to name their man and then we will have things harmonious.

The following delegates were then appointed to act as a Committee on Credentials:—

Aspen Grove—J. E. Bate.
Armstrong—F. C. Wolfenden.
Ashcroft—Isaac Lehman.
Alberni—H. E. Newton.
Barkerville—John Hopp.
Bullion—F. W. Alexander.
Bear River—Chas. Frank.
Clinton—F. W. Foster.
Cedar Hill—W. F. Loveland.
Camp McKinney—N. Nicholson.
Cowichan—Clermont Livingstone.
Crofton—Hermann Bellinger.
Duncans—Harry Smith.
Ferguson—Frank Holden.
Fairview—L. W. Shatford.
West Coast—Chas. Dooley.
Windermere—R. S. Gallop.
Phoenix—Geo. W. Bumberger.
Eholt—G. Arthur Rendell.
Trail—R. M. Perdue.
Kelowna—J. Dilworth.
Trout Lake—J. Longstaff.
Vernon—H. G. Muller.
Victoria—Hon. D. W. Higgins.
Vancouver—C. D. Rand.
Van Anda—Alex. Grant.
Quesnelle Forks—J. McRae.
Quesnelle—Senator Hon. James Reed.
Rossland—F. W. Rolt.
Revelstoke—W. M. Brown.
Slocan—A. Yorke.
Sidney—T. A. Marshall.
Nicola Lake—A. E. Howse.
Nicola Valley—J. W. Collis.
North Saanich—Clive Phillips-Wolley.
Nelson—S. S. Taylor.
Olalla—S. M. Peterkin.
50-Mile—R. Borland.
Queen Charlotte Island—W. H. Dempster.
Kaslo—W. J. H. Holmes.
Samlups—H. G. Ashby.
Lac la Hache—R. O. McClure.
Lillooet—D. Herring.
New Denver—W. S. Drewry.
Fernie—J. H. Tonkin.
Marysville—W. H. McMahon.
Lytton—H. Graham.
Ladysmith—T. Kiddie.