

actively engaged and thoroughly familiar with the industrial operations the enactment in question is designed to govern.

Nova Scotia Coal Miners' Wages Increased.

The earlier part of the year witnessed rather protracted negotiations in the Sydney District over wage adjustments. The question has been satisfactorily settled at the mines of the Dominion Coal Company both in Cape Breton and at Springhill, and also at the collieries of the Acadia Coal Co., in Pictou Co., and the Inverness Mine in Cape Breton Island. An agreement was understood to have been reached between the workmen of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., and the Company, similar in scope to that on which the Dominion Coal Company settled with its workmen, but some hitch has arisen as to whether the increase offered will be cumulative upon a number of rather unusual concessions which the Scotia Company has granted within recent years, in lieu of specified adjustments on a percentage basis. It seems unlikely that any trouble will supervene of a serious nature, but at the time of writing the matter is not settled.

The increase given by the Dominion Coal Company was retroactive to the 1st of January, so that the workmen received two months' increase in a special pay envelope at one time. The increase which is under negotiation with the Scotia Company is likewise retroactive, and should the matter be happily settled, the cumulative increase for over three months will amount to a very considerable sum.

Mining Society of Nova Scotia will Resume Meetings.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Mining Society is arranged for the 1st and 2nd of May. Since the very successful meeting held by the Society in April, 1914, the annual meetings have not been held in customary form, because the Society felt some impropriety in doing this under the strain of war conditions. In 1917 the annual meeting occupied only one day, and some extremely interesting and pertinent papers were read; but owing to the short session, they were not adequately discussed. A number of these papers are selected for discussion at the forthcoming annual meeting, and as advance copies have been distributed to the members, it is thought a profitable and mature discussion of the problems they present will take place. Some new papers are expected, and it is anticipated that the resumption of annual meetings of a normal character will show that the Society has not lost any prestige by its voluntary policy of retrenchment during the first few years of the war. This policy has placed the Society's finances in a much more favorable condition than they were in some years ago. The Annual Dinner will be held, but its features will be modified to conform with war times. As the meeting extends over two days, and as the visiting members must dine in any case, it has been considered advisable not to any longer deprive the members and the Society of the advantages which accompany the social features of the annual meeting. During the past three years the sum of \$100 has been annually donated to some patriotic fund as representing the saving to the Society from dispensing with the usual features of the Annual Dinner, which is probably the best justification of the action of the Executive in its policy of abstention and retrenchment.

It is anticipated that the question of affiliation between the Mining Society of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Mining Institute will receive final consideration from the Mining Society's members at the forthcoming meeting.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To Investigate Smelter Charges.

Continuing the agitation against the methods of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company in regard to charges and terms of settlement in connection with the smelting of silver-lead ores, Mr. Chas. F. Caldwell, of Kaslo, who is largely interested in mining properties in Ainsworth mining division, recently appeared before the mining committee of the Provincial Legislature, and asked, on behalf of the Independent Mine-Owners' Association, that an investigation be made into the existing situation. He claimed that the charges now made by the smelting company are unfair, and that they have been steadily increased until now they have reached a point where the smelting company absorbs all the profits.

The Victoria Daily Colonist has published the following information on this matter:

"Denial of Mr. Caldwell's statement was made by Mr. J. J. Warren, Managing Director of the Consolidated Company, who contended that the new rates, which became effective on February 1, last, would not yield to the company more than a reasonable profit.

"Mr. Warren stated the company had made an offer to allow a committee from the miners to examine its books and go into the whole matter, but this offer had not been accepted. He could not see his way to agree to a Government commission. It would cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 and would accomplish nothing. No commission could force the company to do the work at less than cost plus a reasonable profit, and this was the situation now.

"A resolution was offered by Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite that a commission be appointed to go into the whole matter, the commission to consist of one representative of the smelting interests, one from the miners and one from the Government. No action was taken on the motion. It will be taken up at a future meeting of the committee."

Investigation agreed upon.—Meanwhile, action by the Provincial Government seems to have been rendered unnecessary by the attitude of the Dominion Government, as reported by The Trail News, as under:

"Advices from Ottawa state that the Dominion Government has agreed to the appointment of the committee nominated by the Associated Boards of Trade to make an investigation into smelting rates of the Consolidated Company and will provide the necessary funds. It will also pay for the employment of an expert accountant and an expert metallurgist to assist the committee in making the inquiry.

"Information to this effect has been received by Mr. Fred A. Starkey, of Nelson, president of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia, from Messrs. Lorne A. Campbell and W. A. Anstie, who were delegated to go to Ottawa and place the matter before the government with the request that the committee be given the powers necessary."

WEST KOOTENAY.

Ainsworth.—On March 21 the Kootenaian, published at Kaslo, included the following in its week's mining news: "After spending about \$130,000 in development on the United, Crow Fledgling, and Skyline properties, in Ainsworth camp, the A. W. McCune interests have quit that field. The reason given for the move is said to have been some friction with the unions. All of the camp materials and outfit used at the various pro-