

## Mr. Pellew-Harvey's Lectures.

To the Editor:

SIR,—The British Columbia Mining Record for June and July has given us the treat of a *verbatim* report of Mr. W. Pellew-Harvey's two lectures on "Metals and Metallurgy," given under the direction of the Minister of Mines for B.C. Whether from wisdom born of experience or otherwise, Mr. Harvey announced that "The subject of the treatment of ores is rather an advanced one for the miner," and hence thought it advisable to give instead a rambling-disconnected discourse on blow-pipe work, mineralogy, sampling and qualitative tests, winding up with a talk about tin in Cornwall.

We have Mr. Harvey's own word for it that the "Minister of Mines is well pleased with the success of these lectures" in Victoria and New Westminster; this is very gratifying, but one would like to know whether the minister is not alone in his pleasure.

One resident of Vancouver writes me that the miners are anything but pleased at the lectures which have been given.

But is the Minister of Mines equally pleased to have Mr. Harvey deliberately tell his audience, who are supposed to be men directly dependent upon mining for a living, that "mining, you understand, is but a gamble anyway?" If the subordinates of the Department of Mines entertain such an erroneous conception of mining as Mr. Harvey enunciates, it is time the minister reorganized the staff of lecturers, and employed men who will not traduce his department upon the public platform.

Yours, etc.

DURHAM.

Montreal, Aug. 6th, 1896.



## MIDSUMMER MEETING

OF THE

## Mining Society of Nova Scotia.

The midsummer meeting of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia was held on 27th ultimo, at the rooms of the Society in Halifax, the President, Major R. G. Leckie, occupying the chair. The attendance was not as good as usual, among those present being Messrs W. Blakemore, B. C. Wilson, J. H. Austen, Chas. Fergie, J. E. Leckie, Captain Harding, Dr. Gilpin, C. C. Starr, W. L. Libby, E. R. Faribault, C. E. Willis, and H. M. Wyld.

The minutes of the March meeting were read by the Secretary and adopted.

A telegram was read from Mr. B. T. A. Bell expressing his regret on behalf of the members of the Quebec Association at their inability to be present, and conveying to the Society his wishes for a successful meeting.

The Secretary was requested to acknowledge same.

## Election of Members.

On motion of the Secretary the ballot was suspended. The following gentlemen were then proposed for membership: Mr. Hiram Danks, Mr. W. H. Weston, Mr. Henry E. Weston and Mr. H. E. Hill.

On motion they were declared elected members of the Society.

## Committee on Mining Legislation

Mr. BLAKEMORE referred to the resolution adopted at the last meeting that the committee on Mining Legislation be requested to continue their labors. He wished to urge upon them the importance of convincing the Government of the necessity of the proposed changes and the proper time to do so was before the house was in session.

Mr. FARIBAUT, said that the chairman of the committee, Mr. Drysdale, urged that their plans be thoroughly matured before the meeting of the Legislature so that better success could be anticipated.

DR. GILPIN said that the resolutions of the committee had been carefully gone over by the Commissioner, some of which had impressed him favourably, while as to some of the other proposed changes he had some doubts as to their advisability.

THE PRESIDENT said that as some of the proposed changes would affect revenue, the proper time to interview the Commissioner is before he makes up his returns.

MR. BLAKEMORE suggested that the convener of the committee take up the work and have an interview with the Commissioner without delay.

## A Government Diamond Drill.

Mr. Roy D. Hunter of the Sullivan Machinery Company, of Chicago, having been granted leave, addressed the Society on the subject of Diamond Drills and the benefits to be derived from the use of same in prospecting. He asked that a resolution be adopted urging the Government to purchase one. He stated that the Governments of Newfoundland and Ontario had each purchased a diamond drill some years ago, which had proved of valuable assistance to the mining industry. The drill purchased by the province of Ontario cost about four thousand dollars. The regulations governing the management of the drill provide that it may be supplied to owners of mineral property or others desiring its use on their giving a bond for payment of the cost of working it. In order, however, to encourage the opening up of properties by means of the drill the Government of Ontario undertook to pay about one half the expenses of boring with same, the other half being paid by the prospector. Mr. Hunter stated that he had had an interview with the Hon. Mr. Murray, Premier of the Province, with reference to the government purchasing one and operating it on the same plan. The Premier expressed himself as favourably impressed with the idea, but as there was no expropriation no immediate action could be taken. The Premier sug-

gested that if the mining men of the province expressed their desire that the Government purchase a drill it would receive the careful consideration of the Government. Mr. Hunter therefore asked that a resolution be adopted by the meeting urging the Government to purchase a diamond drill.

A short discussion followed in which Mr. Blakemore, Mr. Fergie and Mr. Willis took part, and it being the general opinion that the drill would be a valuable aid to the mining industry of the province, the following resolution was unanimously adopted on motion of Mr. Fergie.

"That the committee appointed to consider the amendments to the mining legislation be requested to express their approval of the purchasing of a diamond drill, to be hired to prospectors on a similar basis to that adopted in the province of Ontario."

The meeting then adjourned.

## COMPANIES.

**The London and British Columbia Goldfields, Limited.**—The first statutory meeting of the London and British Columbia Goldfields Company, Limited, was held in London last month. The Chairman (Mr. A. Johnstone Douglas) presided, and there was a numerous attendance of shareholders.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, said: It may have surprised some shareholders when they received the notice for a statutory meeting of our company, which, as you are aware has only been in existence for about a month; but owing to the suggestion made by the Committee of the London Stock Exchange certain trifling alterations had to be made in the Articles of Association which rendered it necessary to call a special meeting. The directors' thought they would best consult your convenience by calling a general meeting on the same day; hence this meeting at this early stage of the Company's existence. It will be obvious to you that the directors are not able to afford you much information—there is no report and no balance-sheet. I may remind you, however, that the nominal capital of the Company is £200,000, divided into 197,500 ordinary and 2,500 deferred shares. Our first issue of 100,000 shares was over-subscribed, and we have allotted the whole of it to *bona fide* subscribers, of whom there are upwards of 500. We have paid nothing to the founders, we start with a clean sheet, and we have the whole of the subscribed capital available at the banker's. We have already many valuable options on offer, some of which, no doubt, we shall be able to handle at once, and upon very advantageous terms; but I think you will agree that it would be highly undesirable to enter into any details or to disclose the nature of the negotiations upon which your board are presently engaged. (Hear, hear.) I will, however, ask you to accept my assurance that the nature of our business is such as to warrant me in prophesying a profitable and speedy career for the Company. (Applause.) Much of the success of a company of this kind depends upon the character and reputation of those who represent it abroad, and I am happy to be able to inform you that in Mr. Fowler, our inspecting and mining engineer, we have a gentleman in whom we can place the utmost confidence. He bears the highest character for independence and for upright judgment, and his opinions on British Columbia have hitherto been highly valued. Your directors consider that in securing the exclusive services of Mr. Fowler in British Columbia they have been most fortunate. Mr. Geo. Alexander, your local director, is a gentleman known to some of your directors here, and they feel that they can place the utmost confidence and reliance upon him. He is a resident of the centre of the Kootenay district and really knows everything that is worth knowing there. Your local manager, Mr. J. R. Robertson, left this country for British Columbia on the 24th of last month. We have heard of his arrival and have, in fact, already had cable communication to him as to certain properties which we hope to acquire. As a shrewd, hard-headed man of business we believe that he is almost without an equal, and we consider that his services will be most valuable to you. (Hear, hear.) Let me say one word as to the field of our operations. British Columbia is a vast field for capital and enterprise. It is as well known to you as to myself that it is a gold-producing country, and its incalculable mineral resources are well known to all experts. In spite of its long winter, British Columbia has a splendid climate, labor is plentiful, and it has magnificent water communication, to which will shortly be added an improved system of railway communication. There is an abundance of timber and great capabilities of agricultural development, and all those natural resources which only require money to turn them to profitable account. For many years placer mining has been carried on on the banks and in the beds of the British Columbian rivers, and it has only been recently that reef mining has begun. In one creek in the Cariboo district, called William's Creek, the hydraulic process which has been introduced has turned out gold to the amount of four millions of pounds. Notwithstanding the auriferous-bearing strata of this country, the gold industry has only been carried on in small districts, and the result of these operations shows to my mind what an immense scope there must be for a company such as ours. (Hear, hear.) I could go on singing the praises of British Columbia in terms which would perhaps not tend to the improvement of the standing of our company from a commercial point of view, because I daresay you will agree with me that one is apt rather to try to picture El Dorado of wealth in a country in which one has money invested; but I think I am quite safe in saying that those who know the country best are of opinion that in British Columbia there is a vast field for enterprise and for investment. I shall be happy to answer any questions which any shareholders may wish to put. Before I sit down I should like to say that it will interest you to know that one of your board, Mr. Forster, proceeds to British Columbia within the next few days, and we hope that when we meet on a future occasion we shall have the benefit of his experience in that country. (Loud applause.)

The extraordinary general meeting of the company was then held.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the necessary resolutions, said he thought they had reason to congratulate themselves on the fact that, if the resolutions were passed, they would have a *quid pro quo* in the fact that they would have the enormous privilege and occupy the proud and almost unique position of having at that early stage of their career a quotation on the Stock Exchange lists. That they would all agree, was an excellent privilege, and one to be much desired. (Applause.)

The necessary resolutions were then unanimously agreed to as follows:—

1. That Article 44 of the Articles of Association of the Company be altered by omitting the word "one-fifth" and substituting therefor the word "one-tenth."
2. That Article 76 of the Articles of Association be altered by omitting the words "a first director," down to and including the word "Company," and substituting therefor the following words—"a first director may act before acquiring his qualifications, but shall in any case acquire the same within one month from his appointment, and unless he shall do so he shall be deemed to have agreed to take the said shares from the Company, and the same shall be allotted to him accordingly."
3. That Article 89c of the Articles of Association be altered by omitting the words "or do not acquire" down to and including the word "Company."
4. That Article 101 of the Articles of Association be altered by adding thereto the words, "and two copies of each of these documents shall at the same time be