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BOARDS OF TRADE AND THE MINERAL INDUSTRY.

THE annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia, a body fairly representative of business and mining interests in the Kootenays and Yale, was held recently in Kaslo. The convention debated a number of very important matters affecting the mining industry of the Province, and among others, the following resolutions were introduced and passed.

(1). That the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia do petition the Provincial government that legislation be enacted providing for the creation of local road boards, to be elected in the same manner as rural school boards and possessed of administrative powers only, to which shall be entrusted the administration of all funds appropriated by the legislature for roads, trails and bridges in the particular districts for which such boards shall have been created. To this resolution the following was added in amendment:

That the local board of commissioners should have power to allow claim owners to perform on roads and trails under their supervision, and that claim owners should have the right to record work so performed as assessment work upon their claims to an amount not to exceed \$200 for any one claim.

(2). That whereas, Canada is becoming a large producer of pig lead, and its product is being sold to a very limited extent in Canada, while the bulk of it is being disposed of in China, Japan, Germany and other foreign countries, and whereas, Eastern Canada is to-day importing from Germany practically all of the white lead it consumes: Be it resolved, that the Dominion government be again requested to so increase its duties as to make the manufacture of white lead and other manufac-

tured lead possible in Canada, and so allow the producer of pig lead in Canada, an additional market in his own country for his product, and that a committee be appointed to go to Ottawa to place this resolution before the house.

(3). That whereas, the Dominion government has issued a bounty for the production of pig lead in Canada, amounting to \$100,000 per annum at the rate of \$5 the first year, \$4 the second, \$3 the third, \$2 the fourth and \$1 the fifth, and whereas, there is not being produced at the present time sufficient lead bullion to enable a refinery to earn the full amount of the bounty; and whereas, a refinery for the production of pig lead is at present under construction; therefore, be it resolved, that the Dominion government be asked to so modify this bounty for the first year so that the full amount thereof amounting to \$100,000 be disbursed, providing 15,000 tons of pig lead be produced during the first year, and should there be less than 15,000 tons produced during such year, then the rate allowed during the first year shall be \$7 per ton instead of \$5 as at present provided; furthermore, that the bounty for each of the succeeding years shall be at the rate of \$5 a ton, but such bounty shall not exceed \$100,000 per annum as at present.

(4). That whereas, the welfare of a large portion of Southern British Columbia depends upon the extensive development of large bodies of low grade ores, and whereas, the treatment of such ore to be done successfully must be done economically; and whereas, the cost of fuel represents a large percentage of the total cost of treatment; and whereas, the present cost of fuel appears excessive and should, if possible, be reduced; and whereas, we believe that such a reduction in the cost of fuel could be best brought about by the opening of competitive coal fields; and whereas, the only available coking coal fields not already occupied by the Crow's Nest Coal Company are those situated on the south side of Morrissey creek; and whereas, the Dominion government has the statutory right to select 50,000 acres of these coal lands; therefore be it resolved, that the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia, in convention assembled, hereby urge upon the Dominion government the necessity of at once making its selection of those lands and leasing them with such safeguards as will absolutely preclude now and in the future, the possibility of their amalgamation with, or control by the Crow's Nest Coal Company or any allied corporation, and that the maximum price to be charged for coke be \$3.50 per ton, f. o. b., and the maximum price for three-quartered inch screened coal be \$1.75 per ton f. o. b.

(5). That whereas, there is now imposed by the government of British Columbia a tax of two per cent. on the gross value of all ores after deducting the charges paid for transportation and smelting. Whereas, the prosperity and growth of the mining industry of this Province largely depends upon the possibility of profitably working the low-grade ore deposits of the country; and whereas, the incidence of the tax as at present levied is considered to be unjust, bearing unequally upon mines having different conditions as to value of ore and cost of production, and taxing all the labour and supplies expended in ore production. Whereas, it is believed that a considerable portion of the revenue which it may be deemed equitable to levy upon the mining industry could be levied: First, from the tax already legally collectible upon the Crown Granted claims upon which less than work to the value of \$200 annually is done if such tax were systematically and promptly collected, or in default thereof, if the said Crown Granted mineral claims were to be sold by the government to the highest bidder; and second, by changing the conditions in regard to such Crown Granted claims so that work to the value of \$400 annually should be required, or failing, that a tax of 50 cents per acre be imposed; and third, by requiring that instead of work to the value of \$100 being the annual assessment conditions on non Crown Granted claims, work to the value of \$80 be accepted with an increase of the fee for recording assessment work to \$12.50 with no increase in the number of assessments before the issuance of Crown Grants, and by these means the development of the resources of the country be stimulated;

Be it resolved, that the government be asked to look to the means herein suggested for a portion of the revenue from the mining industry and to reduce by so much the amount to be derived from the tax on mineral produced and to change the incidence of the tax by deducting from the taxable value of the ore the cost of mining exclusive of capital, expenditure and head-office expenses, such deduction to be subject to the jurisdiction of such official as the government may designate.

We propose to briefly discuss the subjects of these resolutions in the order named. The suggestion that