

## Second International Mining Convention, Nelson, B. C.

Reported by our British Columbia Correspondent.

The annual International Mining Convention of the Pacific Northwest was held on the 19th, 20th and 21st of June at Nelson, B.C., and was attended by representatives of the industry from all sections of the British Columbia Interior and from the State of Washington.

Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines, was present and informed the delegates that it was the policy of the Provincial Government to offer every encouragement to Capital, it being appreciated that this was essential if the country's mineral riches are to be developed. Taxes might be considered high, but they were not as much so as in the neighboring States and the Government was looking forward to the time, which he trusted was not far distant, when assessment would be based only on net incomes.

One of the Convention's features was the announcement that the Committee appointed to investigate the charges against the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of placing its rates of treatment at such a figure as to impose a great hardship upon shippers of ore, had found the company "not guilty." This was followed by a suggestion from the company's officials that they and the independent shippers should get together to consider and settle their differences as well as to solve their joint problems.

There were a number of valuable papers, dealing with all phases of mining activity, and F. A. Starkey, the Convention Manager, and his Associates were congratulated on the able manner in which the event was organized and carried through.

### First Day's Proceedings.

#### *Organization of C.M.I. Branch for B.C. Interior.*

The first day was employed in the organization of a branch of the Canadian Mining Institute for the British Columbia Interior. Mr. S. S. Fowler, Manager of the Blue Bells Mines, near Riondel, B.C., was selected to act as Chairman and explained that the purpose of the proposed branch was to give the mining men of the Eastern Districts of the Province a medium for the consideration of problems which were constantly arising relative to the industry and for the impression of their views, with the support and influence of the Canadian Mining Institute, upon those in authority in Government or otherwise. He was sure the importance of this would be recognized and that those associated with the development of the industry would co-operate in order that the move might be made a success. These views generally speaking were endorsed, and some suggestions made as to how the usefulness of such a Branch could be emphasized, by Dr. E. T. Hodge, Professor of Mining at the University of British Columbia, Ernest Levy, James Anderson and R. R. Bruce. It was pointed out that heretofore matters relating to mining in the Kootenays had been dealt with by organizations not directly affected and only indirectly interested. For these reasons it was decided, without opposition, to launch the new organization and the necessary formal steps were taken, officers being elected as follows: S. S. Fowler, chairman; W. G. Wilson, secretary; executive committee, James Anderson, Kaslo; Randolph R. Bruce, Windermere; A. G. Langley, Revelstoke; F. S. Peters, Rossland and S. G. Blaylock, Trail, B.C.

Other events of the day were of a purely preliminary character. The Mineral Exhibit, which was housed in a canvas structure on the main street of the city, was judged. This was a representative display of the mineral wealth of the Kootenay and Boundary Districts of the Province. Most of the well-known properties were represented and the variety, as well as the quality of the specimens shown, were the subjects of favorable comment by visitors. After the session to which reference has already been made a reception was tendered a body of delegates from various parts of the Province, including the Coast, who came by steamer up the Arrow Lakes. Nelson is situated on the West Arm of the Kootenay Lake, a chain of inland waterways from which rise very beautifully timbered hills and mountains. The citizens are enthusiastic yachtsmen, canoeists, and motor boat devotees. There is available, therefore, quite a large mosquito fleet and this was mustered to extend welcome to the incoming mining men. It cruised down the water, greeted the regular steamer with all whistles and horns procurable, and turning escorted her into harbor. It was a striking scene, as the rays of the sinking sun were reflected on the placid waters and the varied colors of the mountain and hill sides were thrown into relief, while the little craft churned their way into the quaint little City of Nelson, the mining centre of the interior of one of Canada's greatest mineral producing provinces.

### Proceedings of Second Day.

On Friday, June 20th, the Convention got into full swing. The delegates about two hundred strong assembled at the gaily bedecked City Hill to listen to addresses of welcome from Mayor J. A. McDonald, who figuratively handed them the keys of the City. Hon. John Keen, Speaker of the British Columbia Legislature, was another of those called upon. Himself a pioneer among pioneers, one of the sturdy band who had a hand in the opening up of the Slocan District, a man direct in speech, uncompromising in his statement of fact, and possessed of a sense of humor which makes his public utterances features of all important gatherings of western mining men. Mr. Keen bade the delegates welcome in warm terms. He said that the City of Nelson admittedly was a delightful place and no doubt they would have a good time. But there was another city, which wished to be remembered—Kaslo, the Mother City of the Kootenays. For some reason she could not have the Convention and so was glad that it went to Nelson, her largest suburb. (Laughter.) The delegates could thank God that there were not living in the years 1891 to 1894. Then they did not have the learned geologist and the equally learned metallurgist to tell them when they were wrong. True these accomplished men did not tell them when they were wrong till after the event even today, but nevertheless their advice was available and unquestionably it was invaluable. (Laughter.) There were some of them present and he could assure them that what he said was not intended in any but a complimentary sense. To the visitors from Spokane and other points on the American side he wished to extend a special welcome. Their co-operation was always appreciated. They had done good work in