

from the Klondike to South Australia. Mr. W. Walker, the energetic and courteous Agent-General for British Columbia, was unavoidably absent, and it therefore devolved on Mr. Turner to represent the Pacific Province.

Although Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were represented officially at the banquet I regret to say that the Dominion as a concrete whole was not. This is a mistake on the part of the High Commissioner—a very regrettable mistake. Canada needs every possible assistance at the present moment, and for her chief representative to stand aloof from a celebration which was attended by all the leading officials of the Australasian colonies domiciled in London, shows I think, on the part of the High Commissioner for Canada, a want of tact at a critical juncture.

Upon the usefulness in general of Chambers of Mines we heard a good deal from the different speeches. As I have myself over and over again in previous letters endeavored to emphasize the importance to the various provinces, of the periodical publication of reliable statistics, collected by government officials in the various mining districts of British Columbia, and as my statements have been emphatically endorsed by your new Agent-General, it affords me great pleasure to be able to send you a few opinions of leading men whose words carry weight wherever they may be offered. Probably the most important speech of the evening (looking at the matter from the point of view of the necessity to any mining country of having reliable machinery for the collection and distribution of statistics regarding the industry), was that of Mr. John Hays Hammond, the American mining engineer, who has been so closely allied with Transvaal gold mining. Although owing to the character of the gathering verbatim reports of speeches were considered unnecessary, I am able to furnish you with all the chief points made by this famous mining expert. Mr. Hammond (in whose hands was placed the task of proposing the toast of the Chamber), said that it might strike his audience as being somewhat incongruous, that an American citizen should be called upon to propose a toast so pregnant with ideas of British Imperialism. This, however, might be explained on the hypothesis that the subjects involved were of a most cosmopolitan nature, and that while they recognised in him a patriotic American citizen, they would also recognize in him a staunch advocate of British Imperialism, especially when that Imperialism was based on the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race. He would like to say a few words as to the charter of the Incorporated London Chamber of Mines, which charter he preferred to take as read. He had every confidence in saying that its aspirations were most laudable and its aims most comprehensive. His English friends assured him—and he was bound to believe them—that London was the hub of the universe; all roads led to London. Thither came the miner and the promoter to seek capital for the development of mines; also the mining engineer, who came personally to safeguard the interests of the investor—by no means a sinecure. The capitalist was already there—he was the magnet attracting the others. Thus they had in London a remarkable juxtaposition of miner, mining engineer, promoter and capitalist, and he knew no other spot on the face of the globe where they could find such a combination. Therefore, London was pre-eminently the place for an incorporated chamber of mines. It was undoubtedly to the interests of the mining districts of the world and to the people of this great city who invested their money in mines, that they should be in closer touch with each other. If the interests of all concerned in the mining industry were properly represented in London, many grievances would be redressed. Mr. Hammond referred to the good work done by the Witwatersrand Chamber of Mines. In London, he said, one should be able to obtain all the latest and most reliable information regarding the methods of mining and of cognate industries in vogue in other parts of the world. No one country had the monopoly of the best methods. It was indeed by a sort of eclecticism that the best technical results were obtained. Emulation which was fostered by the interchange of ideas, largely by means of information, disseminated by mining bureaus and other allied institutions, is the main spring of technical advice in mining. Nowhere in the world were the good results of this kind of emulation better exemplified than in the Witwatersrand district. There, by means of the local mining bureau, the greatest publicity was given to the results of independent technical experiments and investigations so extensively carried on in that district. A great benefit accrues to the mining industry in this way. Unfortunately these benefits were local in character, but if one could apply the same principle that governed the Witwatersrand Chamber to London, and to make all other chambers of mines tributary thereunto, the greatest possible boon, he thought, would be conferred on the mining industry and co-relatively, on other

industries. He saw in the London institution a germ that could develop into a most important institution.

Sir David Tennant, the Agent-General for Cape Colony; The Hon. E. H. Winterson, Agent-General for Western Australia; Sir Horace Tozar, Agent-General for Queensland; Sir Robert Herbert; Mr. E. A. Duff Miller, Agent-General for New Brunswick and others dilated upon the importance of such an institution to mining industries generally, but unfortunately I have not space at my command to report these interesting contributions to the evening's output of suggestions, compliments and expressions of opinion regarding the foundation of the London Chamber of Mines. There were, however, two speakers present whose speeches will doubtless interest your readers. The first was that of Mr. H. Seton Karr, M.P., the Chairman of the Chamber who presided, and who has devoted much time to the development of the mineral resources of Greater Britain, and the second was Mr. J. H. Turner, ex-Premier of British Columbia.

Mr. H. Seton Karr, M.P., said that he would like to take the opportunity of again reminding them that the Incorporated London Chamber of Mines had been established to collect and collate mining statistics and official information from all parts of the world, but more particularly from British dependencies, and to bring these together in the Chamber's rooms at 64 Gresham St., London, for the benefit of English investors or for the public from abroad. The Chamber, said Mr. Seton Karr, also publishes valuable mining statistics, and has assisted in promoting a mining exhibition in connection with the Greater Britain Exhibition now being held at Earls' Court. But the great purposes of the Chamber are:—(1) To systematize the industry, both at home and abroad, upon a basis alike fair to buyer and seller, employer and workman; and (2) to secure a proper appreciation of the rights and risks of mine owners on the part of those legislators who frame the laws which govern these interests and responsibilities. The first mentioned task is one that requires organization, circumspection and concord, but the various stages towards realization must be left largely to opportunity. The accomplishment, however, of other great purposes depends absolutely upon one paramount necessity—combination. Until mining companies and those who constitute them realize that this is an essential feature to success in their appeals for just laws; until they understand the value of co-operation and add their weight and influence to an organized combination such as the London Chamber of Mines promises to effect, they cannot hope to secure that attention which a united body, speaking with one unmistakable voice, can command. He commended these views to those present, and earnestly trusted that they would co-operate with himself and the others concerned in the good work of establishing a London Chamber of Mines which, with the affiliation of the various colonial chambers throughout the world, would be an institution of great usefulness and credit to all concerned.

Mr. J. H. Turner, the ex-Premier of British Columbia, made a very important speech, and although it came so late in the evening that unfortunately it did not receive the attention it deserved, and had to be considerably curtailed owing to the festive character of the meeting, I must compliment him upon steering clear of political questions which are now vexing the Province, and instead, confining himself to statements which could only be regarded as of educational value. After apologising for coming to the banquet unprepared for speech making, he said that he had felt very much disappointed at finding that the Dominion appeared to be officially unrepresented at that gathering. He did not presume to represent Canada as his audience understood the term Canada. He could only presume to represent one of its provinces, and perhaps it was even presumption on his part to say that he represented British Columbia, as he was not at that time Premier of the Province, but thought that gathering should not dissolve without a word having been said on behalf of the great province of British Columbia. He could not help asserting his belief that the province of British Columbia was destined to be the most important part of the great Dominion of Canada, the oldest colony of the Empire. And why he said this was owing to its position, its grand climate and its unlimited resources, which have yet to be developed. He said that it stood or will stand at the head of that galaxy of provinces, that glorious consolidation in the north of America which are subject to the British Crown. Dealing with the subject in connection with which they had assembled that evening he said he had been very much gratified to hear the remarks made by Sir Horace Tozar. It seemed to him that those remarks covered the situation most thoroughly. Exactly what was wanted was a representative Chamber of Mines in the great Metropolis which had also been regarded as the financial centre of the mining world. He was speaking for the Province that so far as mining went was a baby, though it was destined, he believed,