

10. The imposition of this tax will be most injurious to the mining interests, and in some cases will entirely prevent the carrying on of mines in those cases where the margin of profit is small, which your petitioners undertake to prove to Your Excellency-in-Council.

11. This action of the Provincial Legislature is contrary to the general policy of the Dominion, as your petitioners believe, the Parliament of Canada having at its session of 1890 granted encouragement to your petitioners by removing the duty on machinery imported for the use of mining operations, which policy is overturned by the imposition of such a tax.

12. That the said Act is *ultra vires* and unconstitutional.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to exercise the power conferred on you by the British North America Act, and disallow the said Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN, in answer to a question by Mr. W. H. Irwin, did not think it necessary to embody details in the petition.

DR. RAYMOND ON THE QUEBEC MINING LAW.

MR. B. T. A. BELL then read the following letter from Dr. Rossiter W. Raymond, Secretary of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, New York :

SIR, — I beg to acknowledge with thanks the copy of the new Quebec mining law, which you have kindly forwarded to me. Having but just returned from an absence of several months, principally spent in Egypt or on the ocean I was not acquainted with the provisions of this law, and could scarcely credit the reports concerning them which came in a fragmentary way to my attention.

I have examined, therefore, with curiosity, the printed text of the law ; and I confess that my surprise is now greater than ever. I did not deem it possible that the legislature of any civilized country could at this day be induced to enact a measure so barbaric in its injustice and unwisdom. Of the particulars which embody the injustice of the law, the following struck me as the most important, though not the only ones :

1. As I understand it, the law imposes a "royalty" of 3 per cent. of the gross value of the product upon mines already alienated from the Crown by actual sale without any reservation of the right to levy such a royalty. The exact effect of the phrase "unless otherwise determined by letters patent already granted," in paragraph 1426, I may, perhaps fail to appreciate correctly. I