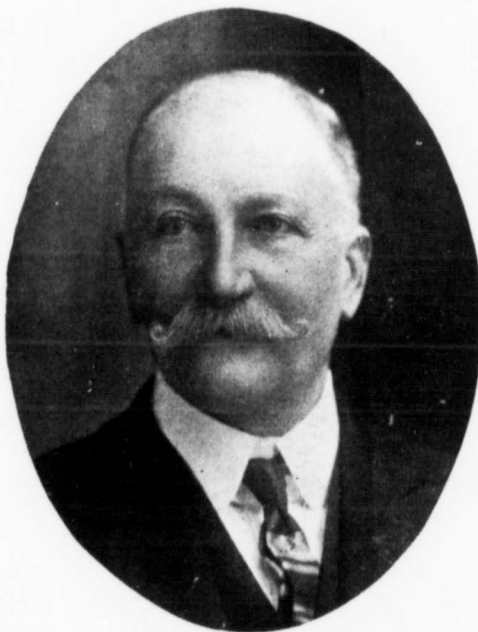


and manner the existing Acts may be amended, in order to serve the best interests of the mining industry of British Columbia.

It is now nearly six years since we first suggested in the MINING RECORD the idea of a Congress of Mining Men. The lists are still in existence—containing some fifteen hundred names—of those who signified a willingness to take part in the promotion of this initial undertaking. The first effort, however, fell through, as in good times such as five and six years ago we enjoyed, did likewise other endeavours started on similar lines. Then other organizations have been formed on exclusive principles—where membership has been restricted to individual classes. But none of these have accomplished much beyond stirring up unnecessary strife and thereby prejudicing their cause with the general public. At length, by reason of urgent necessity an Association, representative, unprejudiced, sympathetic and tolerant, recognizing the need and worth of co-operative work and measures, has been successfully organized. As long as it retains these qualities it will unquestionably exert a powerful influence for good and go far towards restoring prosperity and contentment to the mining districts of the Province.

A beginning has already been made in this direction, for it is freely conceded that in the settlement of the Fernie strike the Mining Association has fully justified its existence.



Mr. John Hobson, of Bullion, First Vice-President.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

Victoria, B.C.,

Wednesday, February 25, 1903, 11:00 a.m.

The Provincial Mining Association assembled for business this morning in the Assembly Room of the Board of Trade Building. The meeting was called to order promptly by Mr. A. L. Belyea, K.C., who, in his opening address, stated as follows:

Gentlemen.—This Mining Convention of British Columbia is open for business to-day. The business it has to do is one of importance, and since there are so many here at the opening meeting there is no reason why the work should not go on continuously until you have finished all you have in hand, and I hope you will have the satisfaction of knowing the work is well done, and if so it will not be without the proper effect upon the principal industry of this country, namely, the mining industry. The first business is the selection of a temporary Chairman and Secretary, and after that I presume the proper thing will be to select a Committee on Credentials,

and then you will decide whether you will appoint a Committee on Resolutions, and after that you will decide when you are to meet again, either this afternoon, or this evening.

The following nominations for temporary Chairman were then made:—

Moved and seconded that Mr. John Keen act as Chairman.

Moved and seconded that Mr. A. L. Belyea act as Chairman. Mr. Belyea declined, the mover and seconder agreeing to the withdrawal.

Moved and seconded that Mr. J. B. Hobson act as Chairman. Mr. Hobson declined, the mover and seconder agreeing to the withdrawal.

Moved and seconded that Mr. Galt act as Chairman. Mr. Galt declined, the mover and seconder agreeing to the withdrawal.

Moved and seconded that Mr. D. W. Higgins, of Victoria, act as Chairman.

Mr. John Keen, of Kaslo, and Mr. D. W. Higgins, of Victoria, being the only two names before the Convention for temporary Chairman, it was moved and seconded that the nominations then close. Mr. Keen was duly elected temporary Chairman of the Convention.

MR. KEEN, of Kaslo—Gentlemen: I thank you very much on behalf of the members of the Upper Country of this organization in general for putting me in this position, and particularly for my own town of Kaslo, and as for the gentleman whom you have elected as your Chairman, I will undertake to say that he will do the best he can to expedite the proceedings, and do the best he can for you. Now, you all know we are here for business, to do it quick-

ly and then to go about our own business, and I hope that we will all get down to work, and work earnestly, because the situation is rather a unique one. It appears to me if we carried our minds back to fifty years ago we would almost consider it impossible that the mine owners, the mine workers, the professional men and all other classes should be moulded into one harmonious whole, and I hope this Convention will be for the benefit of all concerned. (Hear, hear.) This is one of the most important gatherings I think that Victoria has ever had, and I think Victoria should be congratulated on the splendid response made to her invitation. Now, it is simply the duty of the Chairman to be the voice of the meeting, and not to talk. What I would suggest is that you do nothing more this morning other than to elect the Committee on Credentials. I would ask you to pick out a bright, energetic committee who will get down to work, and we will meet this afternoon, and then we will be able to select other committees. I think now, gentlemen, it will be necessary for you to select a Committee on Credentials, and it is now in order for you to nominate a Secretary.

Mr. H. Mortimer Lamb, of Victoria, was elected Secretary to the Convention.