

Mr. WEST (replying to Mr. Fowler)—There is one method effective when ore is not too low in lead: if you put a certain amount of silver in the crucible with the lead, etc.

Mr. LESLIE HILL—In regard to what Mr. Fowler says about the presence of silver in lead, in the Vancouver mine we find that we actually shipped ore higher in silver in 40 per cent. lead than in 60 per cent. lead.

A paper on "The Bridge River Gold District, B.C.," was presented by Mr. Fritz Cirkel, M.E., Vancouver, (reproduced in this issue), and read by title.

THE PRESIDENT presented a paper on "A Method of Cost Accounting" (reproduced in our last issue).

THE EIGHT HOUR LAW.

THE PRESIDENT—Now that all the papers have been read we are ready to receive any resolution which will open for discussion this vexed question of the eight hour law in this Province.

Mr. CROASDAILE—We take this matter up as the Institute is interested in mining throughout the Dominion, and as this matter affected mining in this district. We lately had legislation imposed on us which was not desired, and a class of legislation generally approached with the greatest caution, interfering as it does with freedom of contract. In New Zealand, where labor legislation has been carried to the greatest extreme, there is no interference with freedom of contract. In the British Columbia Legislature at the end of the session legislation was brought in interfering with freedom of contract. Men can work in railway tunnels 12 to 14 hours, but because it is the mining industry men cannot work more than 8 hours. I do not want to go into the political part of the question. I therefore beg to move the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that this Institute feels the necessity of recording its strong disapproval of recent legislation in this Province, legislation that was unasked for by the miners and which interferes with freedom of contract by restricting the hours of labor underground; the which has led to the closing down of many active mines in this Province and has caused a disturbance of the cordial relations which had hitherto existed between capital and labor.

"Also resolved, that the Council of the Institute be authorized to take such action in the matter as it might think fit, and forward a copy of this resolution to the Hon. the Minister of Mines for the Province of British Columbia."

Mr. LESLIE HILL—I beg to second this resolution.

Mr. BELL—What steps have been taken by the mine operators themselves to have the obnoxious legislation repealed? I suppose you would like to have the Institute as a body take action upon the resolution?

Mr. CROASDAILE—I do not know whether the local house would be much influenced by what the Institute thought, but we would be glad if the Institute saw fit to take any action in the matter.

THE PRESIDENT—I may say that many of the members from the East have only heard of this Act through the newspapers. The distinction is made that men can be employed on railway work underground for as many hours as they like, whereas mining companies can only employ men for eight hours underground.

Mr. J. R. ROBERTSON—I would like to say that this matter has been discussed by most companies and in the general press of the Province. At a recent meeting held in Rossland of the Associated Boards of Trade of British Columbia, a strong resolution was passed and sent to the Minister of Mines requesting the withdrawal of this legislation. That is the position the Boards of Trade of British Columbia have taken on this matter.

Mr. FOWLER—I might also remark that not only have the Boards of Trade sent this request to the Government, but soon after we learned of the importance of the legislation passed, delegations proceeded to the Coast representing this district, the Slocan and the Rossland districts, presenting their views and requesting the rescinding of this legislation.

THE PRESIDENT—Have the mining men obtained a legal opinion as to the validity of this section of the Act?

Mr. FOWLER—Yes; it is not unconstitutional.

Mr. CROASDAILE—We had the privilege of a visit from the Minister of Mines, who introduced this amendment to the Mines Inspection Act, but in answer to a question by myself, the only request the Government received for this legislation was from one member of the Rossland Union, but the Government took no steps whatever to ascertain the views of the employers of labor, or to take the views of the miners throughout the Province, but considered it advisable to bring in a resolution and smuggle it through the last session of the House without anyone knowing about it.

THE PRESIDENT—Is this a paragraph of the Mines Inspection Act?

Mr. CROASDAILE—Yes.

Mr. ROBERTSON—The clause as at first printed referred simply to boys under sixteen years of age. There was no mention of the eight-hour clause for adult miners, and it was brought in as an amendment on the 24th of February and the Legislature prorogued on the 27th, and there was no getting of newspapers before that date. The whole thing was run through without any discussion of the matter.

Mr. CROASDAILE—In our own mines we occasionally work three shifts, but it is exceptional. Most mines cannot work three shifts, and the result is the actual production of the mine is reduced from 20 hours to 16. It might be argued that we can put more men on, but you cannot where only two shifts can be worked. There is only room for so many men in the stopes and drifts, and naturally the output of the mine is actually lost by about 15 per cent. owing to this legislation.

Mr. ALEX. DICK—I doubt very much whether it is advisable for this Institute, representing all of the Provinces, to interfere in local matters in British Columbia. I do not know that at any meeting we ever had in Nova Scotia the Canadian Mining Institute ever took any prominent part, and I think, Mr. President, you will bear me out in that statement. I believe out here the mine owners have formed associations, and no doubt any moral support given by the members as a whole would be welcome, but I doubt whether it would be wise for the Institute to take any action.

THE PRESIDENT—I must take exception to one of the words Mr. Dick has used, viz., "interfering". It is not interfering in local matters in British Columbia to have this Institute discuss a matter which is of vast importance to the Province's interests. Furthermore the language of the resolution only records "strong disapproval" of the Government's action.

Mr. BELL—I think this is a question upon which the Institute may be fairly called upon to exert its influence. Any legislation which is so detrimental to the successful development of the mining industry as this eight-hour Act has proved itself to be in the Slocan, should be combatted by the mine owners and mine managers, not only of this Province, but by their confreres in the other sections of the country. The Institute, while partaking largely of a technical character, is, I take it, primarily a protective organization. It has been so in the past. Mr. Croasdaile's resolution appears to me to be perfectly in order, and I think we should do all we can as an Institute to secure a repeal of this obnoxious interference with the mining industry of the Province.

Mr. ALEX. DICK—I think an appeal should be made to the Federal authorities at Ottawa praying for a repeal of the Act, and at the same time we would be doing a greater service to British Columbia than by petitioning the Provincial Government, which is to my mind a repetition of what has already been done.

Mr. CROASDAILE—There has been no resolution sent to the Government by the local organizations. I do not know what your methods are, but I think it is a perfectly legitimate matter for the Institute to take up.

The resolution was then re-read, put to the meeting and carried.

PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. BELL—I should be pleased to have our British Columbia members express their opinion upon the present form of our publications. It has been suggested by some of our members that instead of the bound volumes we should issue in pamphlet form the proceedings of each meeting and the papers which are read separately. These pamphlets might be issued immediately after a meeting, and by being pagged continuously could be bound for those members who desired to have bound copies at the end of the year. The point to be gained would be an earlier publication of individual papers than is possible in a bound journal on the lines of our publication hitherto.

Mr. CROASDAILE—I think we find it most convenient to have the book in its present form.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. FEDOR BOAS—I think it will be in place for the Institute to express its thanks to the two British Columbia gentlemen who have favored us with papers. I am sure all those who have listened to Mr. Fowler have been struck with the excellence of his paper. Mr. West has given the mining men ample room to think also.

Mr. Boas referred in eulogistic terms to the great and brilliant future of British Columbia, and said that the Institute would use every effort to make known its great mineral wealth that only needed capital to develop, and concluded with a warning against bogus companies and wildcat schemes.

Mr. STEVENSON—I have pleasure in seconding this motion of Mr. Boas. I consider the eight-hour law most serious, and think very little capital will come into British Columbia so long as such obnoxious laws are on the Statute Books, and when the mining men get together and do some missionary work with the Provincial Legislature and get that Act repealed the mining situation will be much improved.

THE SECRETARY submitted the following:—*Resolved*, that the members place on record in the minutes of this meeting their hearty appreciation of the many kindnesses and courtesies extended to the members and the very excellent local arrangements which had been made for them during their excursion to British Columbia, and that the Secretary be authorized to send a letter of thanks at the earliest opportunity to the Canadian Pacific Railway; the H. W. McNeill Co., Limited; Mr. Douglas, Superintendent of the National Park; the officers and staff of the British America Corporation, Limited, and the War Eagle Con. M. and Dev. Co., Limited; the Mayor, Corporation and Board of Trade of Rossland; the officers and staff of the Canadian Pacific Smelting Works, and to Messrs. H. W. Croasdaile, S. S. Fowler and Captain Troop at Nelson.

These resolutions being carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned.

MINING IN ONTARIO.

County of Frontenac.

Hematite Iron Ore.—The search for this ore has been entered upon along the frontier of the Huronian formation. On the Potsdam outcrops on Lot 3, 11th Concession, and Lot 4 in 9th Concession, very good hematite has been found, carrying 60 per cent. metallic iron. Some 20 miles east on the same range, on the banks of Dog Lake in the Rideau Canal waters, hematite has been found in considerable quantity. West of the first named locality the ore has been found near Enterprise in Camden township. Thus along some 30 miles the exposures give encouraging testimony of the existence of hematite at the contact between the magnesian limestone and the sandstone of the Potsdam group. The parties engaged in the search so far do not appear to be sufficiently equipped for adequate tests. No doubt the ore will be found as elsewhere overlaid by drift. Boring with the common well-borers outfit will be pretty sure to reveal ore bodies of considerable value which will prove an important addition to the known magnetic ore resources of this county.

Magnetic Iron Ore.—The Hamilton Steel and Iron Company have concluded leases for the Martelle Mine and the Caldwell Mine in the township of Bagot, County of Renfrew, for the Mississippi Mine in Palmerston township, and the Gledower Mine in the Township of Bedford. The royalty payable for three of these mines is 15 cents per long ton, on a minimum output. In Bagot township the mines have not as yet railway connection. A bonus in aid of this necessary work was given to the K. & P. Railway Company last Session of Parliament. The stock piles are daily growing until the branches will remove them during the coming winter. The magnetic ore deposits of the ranges crossed by the Kingston and Pembroke Railway are of great extent, and during the present healthy condition of the iron trade should receive the attention of parties interested in securing sources of ore supply.

Amber Mica.—The townships of Bedford and Loughborough are turning out weekly several tons of thumb-trimmed mica. The Lacy Mine which was culpably allowed to cave-in after a long record of large outputs, has been attacked at another point and is giving excellent results. Tett Bros. on Lot 4 in the 8th Concession of Bedford are working in a mica bananza. The Bedford Mining Company have in this vicinity about 1200 acres which they promise to explore.

Galena.—There is some talk, as yet in the air, about working the Frontenac Lead Mine. The galena range, a wide vein or dyke of calcspar which has been traced some 40 miles from Dog Lake in Storrington to Fermoy in Bedford, has never been intelligently explored. And yet in view of its neighborhood to water and railway communication and accessible supplies there is no more inviting prospect for lead mining in a large way.

Sandstone.—Very fine specimens of sandstone flags are found in the township of Pittsburgh. There is a Grindstone Island in Rock Lake, Storrington, composed of a close-grained sandrock. Some sandstone fronts have been erected which advertise the beauty of this building stone. Mr. C. F. Gildersleeve, general manager of the R. & O. Steamboat Company, a few years ago endeavored to bring the stone into notice, but the time was not favorable. Now that a "growing time" is on, those desiring a handsome house front should turn their attention to the sandstone quarries near Kingston.

J. B.