

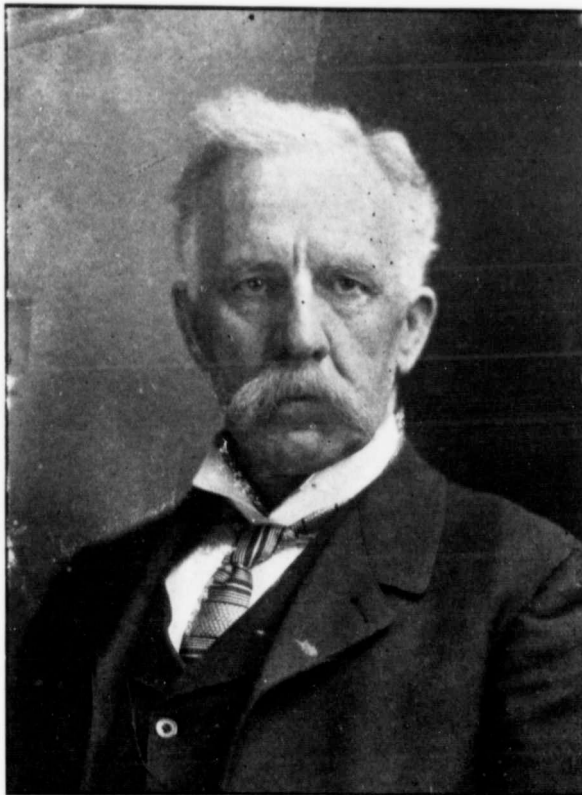
to work the Convention for personal or particular ends, what proved to be a harmonious meeting would almost inevitably have resulted in discord. Instead of taking such a course they, without effacing themselves, left the work of the Convention largely in other hands, thus demonstrating the sincerity of their professions that their only desire in advocating organization was to secure a full, free and representative discussion of matters affecting mining interests. At the outset not a little surprise was manifested at the absence of any cut-and-dried programme or of anything like an attempt at machine control, and when the delegates fully appreciated that the Convention was what it purported to be, namely, a gathering in which all the members stood actually as well as nominally upon precisely the same footing, the discussions at once took on a degree of freedom which could not fail to produce the best results.

An association organized on the broad lines above indicated has all the elements of permanency and popularity. It can appeal to every community in the Province for co-operation in making it an established feature of our provincial institutions. To make it the success, which it may become, the enthusiasm, with which the suggestion of its organization was received must be kept alive. The burden of doing this will rest for the most part upon the Executive Committee, and it is not too much to say that upon the manner in which that body is able to discharge its functions the whole welfare of the organization will depend. Local associations will be formed; but the constitution of the organization does not appear to contemplate that these bodies shall be much more than the machinery whereby representatives to the Provincial Association shall be selected and funds shall be collected to meet expenses. This is a wise arrangement, for it would be very undesirable to have a large number of local bodies endeavouring to deal with questions affecting all parts of the Province alike. Therefore the responsibility of keeping the Association up to the high place in public esteem, which it secured by its first convention, will rest almost wholly upon the Executive Committee, and it is satisfactory to know that the composition of that body is such that this very serious task may be entrusted to it with the fullest degree of confidence. The Association very wisely limited itself to the recommendation of measures affecting mining. The proposal that it should ask the Government to submit for the approval of the Executive all contemplated changes in the law, though attractive at first sight, was seen to be unsound in principle and unworkable in practice and was accordingly abandoned; but this only increases the responsibility

of the Executive, which will have no light task before it in endeavouring to secure the crystallization into legislation of views of the Association. Plain sailing must not be expected. Governments are not always easily moved, and legislatures are often jealous of their prerogatives. It must not be expected that the thirty-eight gentlemen constituting the House of Assembly will abdicate their functions to any considerable degree in favour of the Mining Association. The Executive Committee has its work cut out for it, and its hands will be greatly strengthened if evidence is forthcoming which will convince the Legislature that the committee is really, as well as nominally, representative of the great body of the public, whose interests are identified with the welfare

of the mining industry. For this reason it seems desirable that the formation of local organizations should proceed forthwith, so that the Legislature will understand that the movement is something that must be reckoned with in the future. Therefore, while, as we have said, the success of the Association rests very largely with the Executive Committee and there is not much that local organizations can do to assist directly in that way, very much will be indirectly accomplished by the prompt formation of the subordinate bodies.

While there were differences of opinion on nearly every question discussed at the late Convention, nevertheless, as will be seen from the very full and officially authorized report of the proceedings published in this issue of the MINING RECORD, nearly all the resolutions were carried by substantial majorities, so that it cannot be claimed that the opinions expressed on the several subjects are not thoroughly representative. This fact should, and doubtless will, carry very great weight with the Government and Legislature. It is not, of course, claimed that these bodies are in any way bound by the conclusions to which the Association came, but those conclusions ought to be valuable guides to future legislation, especially as by reason of the very full report of the proceedings of the Convention here presented, all who so desire can learn the reasons which influenced the delegates in reaching a decision. Meanwhile, we anticipate the most beneficial results from the work of the Association in the future. Let no one suppose that the organization aims at becoming a sort of unofficial legislature to deal with a certain class of subjects, and suggest annually a lot of changes in the laws relating to mining. But the Legislature may nevertheless wisely accept the good offices of so representative a body as the Provincial Mining Association in ascertaining what legislation it is believed should be introduced, or in what respect



Mr. John Keen (Kaslo), President of the Association.