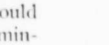
measure as that proposed, and we imagine that both employers and employees will be satisfied if the Legislature contents itself with passing a general Act providing the machinery for the speedy settlement of labour disputes. At the Convention the opinion of the Association was clearly against what is known as "compulsory arbitration," for the reason that such a system is both unnecessary and only questionably workable.

We now come to the consideration of perhaps the most important of the recommendations submitted to the Government—the matter of Crown granting placer claims. At the Mining Convention a resolution was practically unanimously carried in favour of this proposal, after the reasons for its adoption had been advanced by the advocates of the measure. A minority at the meeting, however, lodged a protest against the passage of the resolution on the grounds that the effect that such amendments as suggested would have, had not been adequately discussed or considered. The recommendation was subsequently debated at length by the Executive Committee, one member only dissenting to its provisions as finally submitted to the Legislature. We should not have referred to the opposition to the proposal but for the fact that recently a number of placer miners in the Atlin District and also, we understand, at Stanley, have expressed themselves as being opposed to the Crown granting of placer ground or to any of the changes that it is proposed should be made in the Act. At the same time we are obliged to recognize that the present title obtainable for hydraulic and deep level ground is not a satisfactory one; that as long as the title is not secure it serves to discourage the investment of capital in large undertakings of this nature; and finally that there is nothing revolutionary or novel in the request that has been put forward, for it is merely that the placer miner should be placed on the same footing as the quartz miner, and that we should accept as a basis for the remodelling of our placer mining laws an Act under which placer and hydraulic mining has been successfully carried on for years in the United States where conditions are precisely similar. It is, of course, out of the question for the prospector to attempt to hold hydraulic ground under the present system. Some are inclined to doubt whether under any other system mining property of this character could or would be developed by prospectors. But the fact remains that deep alluvial ground has been successfully developed by individual miners in California under favourable conditions of tenure, and if the Crown granting system will afford to this class in British Columbia any further encouragement it is certainly a strong argument in its favour. The objections raised to the recommendations appear to be first that the introduction of the Crown granting system would result in the "tying up" of enormous tracts of territory, and secondly that the country would suffer a serious loss of revenue by the abandonment of the leasehold system. Under the present leasehold system, fifty dollars per annum is paid annually for the right of leasing eighty acres of ground, and further it is obligatory that the work should be continuously prosecuted on the property. The life of a lease is twenty years, and consequently the Government would receive during that period a thousand dollars, and presumably something like twenty thousand dollars would have been expended in development work. The proposed change would only necessitate the expenditure of four hundred dollars payable in cash to the Government and reduce the amount of development work legally required to the equivalent of an expediture of five hundred dollars. A reply to these objections is that in spite of existing regulations large areas are held unworked from year to year, and if this objection proved in actual practice to be really valid, the evil is open to easy regulation by the imposition of a considerable taxation on unworked claims, but that as a matter of fact there is little likelihood of speculation on such lines for hydraulic ground can have no value until it has been thoroughly prospected and tested—in itself requiring a large outlay. On the score of revenue, it is expected, that any deficit in the one direction would be more than compensated for in another by a tax of 50 cents per acre on Crown granted ground and a charge of 5 cents per inch for the water used in mining.

This seems to us to be a fair representation of both sides of the case and our readers are therefore in a position to form their own conclusions. If, meanwhile, the proposed changes appear too radical a compromise here suggests itself. We think it is admitted that better title should be granted to operators of hydraulic and deep level mines whose *bona fides* have been established. As a further precaution then against the holding of property for speculative purposes, absolute title might be withheld in all cases where the equipment of a property was not up to a standard requirement. But in that case the argument in favour of the prospector falls to the ground.



It is with very great regret that we learn that the American Institute of Mining Engineers has been compelled to abandon the proposed British Columbia meeting this summer for the reason that the transportation companies being unable to provide return-journey special car accommodation for the party, in consequence of the "unprecedented demand for cars for the regular traffic." The acting secretary of the Institute, Mr. Theodore Dwight, writes meanwhile that "Applications and negotiations in every possible quarter have resulted in the conviction that it is impossible to secure even a special train for the journey to British Columbia and back." We suppose we should express gratification at this evidence of Canadian industrial activity and prosperity, but one is inclined to discount the point of the explanation in one's natural feeling of annoyance at the abandonment of an arrangement from which British Columbia was certain to have realized very substantial benefit.