

to apply to lumbering and other industries. We are in sympathy with the idea, but before arriving at a decision on the point we are waiting for complete returns from mining companies and other corporations, so that we may have sufficient information before us to see what effect such deductions would have on our revenue.

"It is hardly necessary for me to again repeat that Premier Oliver and the Government are determined that taxation shall not interfere with the progress of mining in this Province and when your returns are all in our possession we will give the matter our fullest consideration and study, so that adjustments may be made, if necessary."

Mr. R. Randolph Bruce, of the Paradise Mine, Windermere, followed with an acknowledgement of the courtesy and consideration given the representatives of the Mining Industry by the Government in discussions on taxation.

On Wednesday morning (July 10th) Mr. R. F. Green, M.P., spoke briefly and Mr. S. G. Blaylock, of Trail, B.C., assistant general manager of the Canadian Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., gave an interesting address on "The Part Played in the War by the Trail Smelter." He spoke of the development of the lead and other branches of the smelter since the outbreak of the war and made the statement that facilities had been provided for the handling of all the ores of the Province.

Hon. Wm. Sloan on Mining Industry of B.C.

Mr. A. B. Clabon, president of the Vancouver Chamber of Mines, took for his subject "The Value of the Mining Industry" and in the afternoon Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines, delivered a spirited speech on "British Columbia, the Mineral Province." He extended a special welcome to the visitors from the United States, speaking of the value of co-operation and of the fact that at such a time, when Canadians and Americans were fighting shoulder to shoulder against the common enemy, their fellow-countymen at home should and would "do their bit" by pooling their interests, so to speak and by concerted effort attain the maximum output of those materials essential to the successful prosecution of the war. He traced the development of the mining industry in British Columbia from 1848 when the Hudson's Bay Co. first mined coal on Vancouver Island. Since then \$170,000,000 worth of coal had been dug up in the Province. British Columbia, contemptuously referred to as a "Sea of Mountains," had yielded \$80,000,000 in quartz mining in the last three years. California mining wealth had produced a record of \$37 per capita whilst British Columbia had a record of \$115 per capita and its resources were only scratched. He dealt with what the Government had done to assist the prospector and with taxation, "taxation and legislation" being referred to as the bugbear of the miners. Personally, he disapproved of the 2 per cent. tax, favoring taxation on the net income of the mines. Reference also was made by the minister to the Government's policy of encouraging the development of the iron ore resources of the country. British Columbia, he said, lacked experimental plants. What was wanted was a plant combining both the commercial and the experimental and the Federal and British Columbia Governments would work towards the establishment of such a plant.

"Northwest Kootenay" was the title of an address by Mr. Orville Young, M.E., of Golden, B.C.

Mr. F. A. Starkey, of Nelson, B.C., President of the Eastern British Columbia Associated Boards of Trade, addressed the convention on Thursday morning, his

subject being "Closer Co-Operation Between Boards of Trade and Mining Organizations." He regretted the lack of a better understanding between the mine-owners and the Trail Smelter and thought that the former by presenting a united front would be able to obtain redress from the smeltermen.

Before the noon adjournment a Resolution Committee was appointed, composed of Messrs. R. Randolph Bruce, Golden, B.C.; Sidney Norman, Spokane, Wash.; Andrew M. Craig, Trout Lake, B.C.; F. A. Starkey, Nelson, B.C.; and J. W. Evans, Revelstoke, B.C.

The prospectors' luncheon which followed and of which nearly one hundred delegates partook, was unique as well as appetizing, features of the menu being bacon, beans and bannock.

In the absence of Mr. Thomas French, manager of the French Complex Ore Reduction Co., Nelson, B.C., his paper on "Some Notes on the Smelter Situation in British Columbia," was read by Mr. F. B. Hill, the Convention secretary. A vigorous address strongly protesting against the evils of the smelter trust was delivered by Mr. Sidney Norman, editor of the "Northwest Mining Truth" and the representative, on this occasion, of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. J. J. Warren on Smelter Problems.

Mr. J. J. Warren, of Trail, B.C., president of the Canadian Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., whose address was entitled "Some Smelting Problems under War-time Conditions," summed up the difficulties with which the smelter has had to contend and warmly defended its management against statements made by some of the speakers. He spoke of the difficulty of finding labor, of the increased cost of production for various reasons among those cited being coal strikes, which restricted operations, and of the problem of fixing smelting rates. In regard to the latter, he instanced the inability of the mine operators to supply the lead demand of the winters of 1916 and 1917, as a result of which an effort had to be made to meet the demand from the American side. When, however, war needs were satisfied the smelter found itself without a market, and, the lead market having collapsed, the smelter had a surplus on its hands. Shortage of clean lead in British Columbia for smelting purposes was the great difficulty. He resented the suggestion that the company was not treating the mine operators fairly. If it was to be subjected to Government regulation the same action should be taken with saw-mills and flour mills. The smelter was ready to treat lead at \$1.00 over cost, which, he believed, was a better rate than was quoted by any other smelter on the continent.

Mr. Charles F. Caldwell, of Nelson, B.C., president and manager of the Utica Mines and President of the Kootenay Mine Owners' Association, outlined the claims of the mine owners of the Kootenay District with respect to smelting rates and asked for the sympathy and the support of the Convention and the Boards of Trade of British Columbia.

In closing the Convention considered the following resolution, in addition to passing those of the usual formal character:

"That inasmuch as the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company is treating custom ores and may be considered a public utility; that a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate and regulate treatment and smelter charges, guaranteeing fair and equal treatment to all producers."

It was decided, on amendment, to defer action pending consideration of the matter by the Associated Boards of Trade.