

Opposition of the day—which together form the House of Legislature—to care for the great and increasing industry of Mining.

We ask that the new Government and Opposition shall, whichever party they represent, not only refrain from retarding this great industry, but that the House when it meets will vigorously proceed to examine our suggestions and amend the laws which are proved to be injurious, when we say the mining industry will rapidly become the greatest revenue-producer, indirectly and directly, in the Province.

This Association includes all classes of the mining industry: bankers, lawyers, mine-owners, miners and muckers; black-smiths, engineers—civil, mechanical and electrical, timbermen, farmers and ranchers, smelter and refinery men, mine managers, clerks, teamsters, *et al*, whose political views include Conservatism, Liberalism, Industrialism, Socialism, and the rest of the political parties, large and small. All are, however, unanimously of the opinion that each party member elected shall be placed upon a stand hedged round by his public utterances, which it will be impossible for him to escape from as heretofore, for he will represent, not himself, but some distinct party which will feel the responsibility and see that he who is elected to represent it will do his duty, bearing in mind that the mining industry is a Provincial question and not a party one in any sense whatever.

I am, yours truly

JOHN KEEN,  
President.

The following resolutions were passed:

*Re MINERAL ACT.*

That whereas under Section 9 of the Mineral Act it is provided amongst other things, that, subject to the proviso therein stated, no person or joint stock company shall be recognized as having any right or interest in or to any mineral claim or \* \* \* water right \* \* \* unless he or it shall have a free miner's certificate unexpired. And that on the expiration of a free miner's certificate the owner thereof shall absolutely forfeit all his rights and interests in or to any mineral claim \* \* \* and water right which may be held or claimed by such owner of such expired free miner's certificate, unless such owner shall on or before the day following the expiration of such certificate obtain a new free miner's certificate:

Provided that this section shall not apply to mineral claims for which a Crown grant has been issued.

And whereas the above proviso fails to clearly protect the owners of water rights on Crown granted mineral claims, without the necessity of keeping up a free miner's certificate, which in the case of a company, costs \$100.00 per year:

And whereas the said provision ought to be amended so as to protect the said water rights on Crown granted mineral claims, as well as the mineral claim itself:

Be it resolved by the Executive Committee of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia, assembled at Rossland by special call of the President, that the said proviso in Section 9 of the Mineral Act ought to be amended by adding thereto the words: "Nor to any water right or record, mining ditch, drain, tunnel or flume, held or used, or intended to be held or used, upon or in connection with the development of any such claims."

*Re WATER CLAUSES CONSOLIDATION ACT.*

That whereas the Water Clauses Consolidation Act, 1897 (R. S. B. C., Chap. 100), has been found to be ambiguous, defective and inequitable in many respects, and requires amendment speedily in the following particulars:

(a.) To remove the ambiguity created by the definition of "unrecorded water" in Section 2 when read in connection with Section 18:

(b.) To repeal Sub-section 2 (b) when the applicant is the owner of a Crown granted mineral claim and the water is to be used to develop such claim:

(c.) To require applicants for water to advertise their application in some local newspaper in addition to posting the notices required by the Act:

(d.) To abolish the existing dual jurisdiction conferred upon Gold Commissioners and Assistant Land Commissioners, and to vest the sole jurisdiction in the Gold Commissioner of each district:

(e.) To provide for the payment of the costs of successful party or parties, in disputed cases, by the unsuccessful party or parties:

(f.) To amend the provisions of the Act relating to Power Companies, so as to remove several doubts which exist:

(g.) To amend the heading and arrangement of Part VI. of the Act, so as to remove certain glaring anomalies from it:

Be it therefore resolved by the Executive Committee of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia, assembled at Rossland by special call of the President, that the said Water Clauses Consolidation Act, 1897, and amending Acts require careful revision and amendment, and that the said Act ought to be promptly amended as above set forth:

It was proposed in amendment by Mr. Taylor, K.C., that the resolution should be amended as follows:—

1. By striking out paragraphs (a), (c) and (e) thereof:

2. By providing that in Section 23 of the Water Clauses Consolidation Act the Gold Commissioner shall determine the questions covered by the wording of the last three lines of said section, at the instance of any person or company interested in any water record or water rights respecting the same brook, creek, stream, river, or lake, whether said records or water rights were obtained before or after the record complained against, or by any person or company applying for water on the said brook, creek, stream, river or lake:

*Re ASSESSMENT ACT—TAXES ON CROWN GRANTED CLAIMS.*

Whereas, under the provisions of the Assessment Act Amendment Act, 1903, a tax of 25 cents for every acre and fractional part of an acre of land conveyed by a Crown grant of a mineral claim is directed to be levied, payable on the 30th day of June immediately after the date of the Crown grant, and thereafter on the 30th day of June in each year:

And whereas, under the terms of this Statute taxes for a whole year at the rate aforesaid are leviable and must be paid, even in cases where the Crown grant has issued only a day or two before the said 30th day of June in any year and without taking into account the assessment work (or fees in lieu thereof) performed or paid:

And whereas the said provision inflicts a great hardship upon prospectors and others interested in the development of mineral claims and in obtaining title thereto:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the said Statute ought to be so amended as to make the said tax apportionable, and that no person should be taxed for any period of time prior to the date of the Crown grant:

*Re COAL LANDS.*

Resolved, that this Executive of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia urge such Government as may be in power after the pending Provincial Elections to formulate without delay a policy for the opening up and development of all coal lands:

And further resolved, that this Executive suggests that, with respect to coal lands in South East Kootenay (not affected by any valid existing legal claim or right of any person or company) the Government retain the title to all such, and develop the coal measures therein contained by a system of leasing to actual operators, such leases to contain stringent conditions for proper equipment, development and continuous operation, and for the full protection of the British Columbia consumers of coal and coke as to supply and price:

And further resolved, that the policy above suggested be extended to all coal and petroleum lands of the Province.

Senator Levi Ankeny, Senator A. G. Foster, Congressman W. J. Jones, and several others, made up a party from across the line who, after visiting the Northport smelter, were shown through the Le Roi mine, Rossland, by the general manager, Mr. S. F. Parrish. At Northport the visitors were entertained at dinner by the superintendent of the smelter, Mr. E. J. Wilson.