

PROPOSED VISIT OF BELGIAN AND OTHER EXPERTS.

MR. B. T. A. BELL—Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, I desire to make a statement respecting a motion that was submitted yesterday by Mr. Leofred. We were told that the Belgian, French and other foreign governments had determined to appoint a commission to enquire into the mineral resources of the Dominion, and we were asked to endorse it. We passed a resolution to that effect. Since then, however, it has transpired that the proposition is simply being promoted by certain individuals to obtain large sums of money from the Dominion and Provincial governments to *invite and defray* the expenses of a commission which is to spend a number of years in this country in the work of acquiring knowledge, and, as it would seem to be largely of the nature of an individual enterprise, I think that as an association we are unanimous in our desire to withdraw any countenance that may have been granted to such a scheme. There could be no objection in asking the government to co-operate with a commission that was being sent here by any country, but as this bears on its face a strong suspicion of a scheme to put money in the pockets of the promoters, I desire to move that we erase from our minutes the resolution adopted entirely under a misapprehension at yesterday's meeting.

MR. T. J. DRUMMOND—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. From what we have learned the matter is one which this Association cannot countenance. We were certainly misled by Mr. Leofred's statement that these foreign governments were to send such a commission at their own expense.

MR. B. T. A. BELL—I distinctly asked Mr. Leofred the question when he submitted his motion, and I think it was adopted purely on his assurance that the foreign governments were sending the experts at their own expense. Personally, so far as I can gather, the whole affair is a pretty healthy scheme to put money in the pockets of the promoters.

MR. T. J. DRUMMOND—Our government can aid the mining industry much better by advertising the resources of this country in more legitimate ways than this.