

President Drewry made a capital chairman. Having made an address of welcome in the afternoon he considered his duties in that line accomplished, and concluded with merely introducing each speaker. He opened proceedings by reading a telegram from the Hon. A. S. Hardy, expressing regret that none of the members of the government were able to attend the convention, tendering his hearty congratulations to the promoters for originating the idea, and wishing the convention every success. This message was received with applause.

Dr. Bryce was then called upon and addressed the convention on "The Geology of the Lake of the Woods Basin." Dr. Bryce prefaced his lecture proper with a brief explanation to the scientific men present for the popular character of his talk, as there were so many in the audience to whom a purely scientific address full of technicalities would be tiresome, he did not wish to claim for everything that he said with regard to these regions. The geology of the country had not been sufficiently studied up to the present time, to permit of hard and fast conclusions being arrived at. The lecture was in the main features the same as that delivered a short time ago before the Historical society of Winnipeg, and which appeared in full in the Free Press at that date. The chief points dealt with were the Laurentian formation of the south end of the lake, and of the Huronian ore-bearing rocks of the north end, also an account of the glacial lake period and an idea of the formation of metallic veins, varieties of veins, with a reference to mine centres and the value of the deposits of the region. The lecture was illustrated with maps and charts and was delivered in the doctor's lucid and happy style.

Much laughter was occasioned by Dr. Bryce explaining how the grinding up of the rocks during the glacial period and the washing down of the deposit had gone to form the rich soil of Manitoba prairies. Manitobans, said the doctor, were much obliged for the present from the Lake of the Woods and had responded in part by presenting the Lake of the Woods region with limestone boulders, which undoubtedly came from Lake Winnipeg and the Red River valley district. In concluding Dr. Bryce urged upon those present the necessity of the greatest integrity in regard to mining ventures put upon the market. He spoke of the interest awakened in England, of which he had noticed many signs during his visit last year and assured the convention that it was only a matter of time when English capital would flow in and help to develop the resources of this district.

Mr. M. W. Hopkins then read a short paper, "The Supply of Electrical Energy for Working our Mines." Mr. Hopkins advanced the theory that the time is not far distant when the water power of Rat Portage in the form of electricity will be transferred to and used in the operation of the mines.

Prof. W. L. Goodwin, of Kingston school of mines, was next called for. He stated that he was neither a geologist nor a mineralogist, but a chemist, and he did not profess to know much about mines. He had come like many others to learn, and had found the proceedings, both in the afternoon and evening, most interesting. Referring to a remark of Dr. Bryce, as

to the necessity of sticking to the country, if we wish to develop and make the most of its great resources, Prof. Goodwin remarked that there was one man who owned a mine in this country to whom a great debt of gratitude was due by the community because in the face of almost unheard of difficulty and opposition, he had stuck to the development of his mine. At this reference to Mr. J. F. Caldwell there was loud and prolonged applause. Another point taken by Prof. Goodwin was the part that would be played in the future of mining by the transmission of power by compressed air and the utilization of the great water powers for this purpose.

Prof. Goodwin also made reference to his special mission, which was to place in position the cases of geological specimens supplied by the bureau of mines, and which it was intended should remain here permanently for the use of those interested in mines, so that in all cases of doubt as to the character of the rocks, ores and minerals generally, these collections would be a basis of reference. He took exception to the name of Rat Portage and advised it to be changed to something more mellifluous.

President Drewry called upon Mayor Barnes to defend the name of the town, which he did in a witty manner, managing to get in some very clever hits at Winnipeg and some of the towns of the north.

Before the convention rose one of the local photographer's took a flash light view of the audience.

#### CONVENTION NOTES.

The committee of arrangements deserves great credit for the way in which they have brought a new and untried venture to a successful issue. Conventions are always awkward things to handle but a mining convention is a new thing in Canada at least and Rat Portage is a town just adjusting itself to a largely increased population and things in general are in a nebulous state. The committee, however, are level headed business men and grappled with the situation courageously and a happier and more contented lot of visitors it would be difficult to find. Everybody is pleased with everything.

The mining exchange have opened their new offices in a building just opposite the opera house and on long tables are arranged a simply amazing display of specimens from various mining districts. Here, too, are cases sent up by the bureau of mines and already they are being utilized by prospectors to identify specimens hitherto unclassified. In fact before Prof. Goodwin had them half in order yesterday, they were surrounded. The exchange has a register for visitors and on signing this they receive a badge and programme.

The badges by the way are very pretty and add much to the brightness of the town. Those of the committee are crimson, lettered in black. The visitors badge is a delicate lavender with gold lettering and the press representatives have a white badge printed in blue.

The programmes too, deserve a word of commendation. The covers are plain green and in gold letters appears the legend "Gold is King, programme, Rat Portage Mining Convention, June 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 1897." On the back is a list of chairman of various com-

mittees and inside in addition to the programme are several sheets of blank paper for the convenience of those wishing to make notes.

Of the new opera house, which in a gold town is appropriately opened with a mining convention it is sufficient to say that it is all an opera house should be and more.

The press is well represented, there being special correspondents here from New York, Duluth and Toronto. Local newspaper men are doing all in their power to facilitate the operations of the visiting scribes.

Quite a number of ladies attended the evening session and took a marked interest in the proceedings.

#### FOURTH DAY.

Rat Portage, June 4. — "Gold is King," is the legend inscribed upon the neat little programmes issued in connection with the first Rat Portage mining convention, and judging from the enthusiasm and number of those anxious to declare their allegiance, his reign promises to be a most popular one.

Mr. D. C. Cameron, in his address of welcome to the "strangers within our gate," delivered on the opening day as chairman of the reception committee, said "that Canada had too long looked solely upon its agricultural and timber resources as its wealth producers, to the total exclusion of almost its minerals." The applause which followed this remark clearly indicated that the large audience present was keenly alive to the truth of the statement. If anything was necessary to demonstrate the great growth of public opinion as regards Ontario's mineral resources one glance around the handsome new opera house while the convention was in session would surely have served that purpose, while the fact that those interested in the proceedings and responsible for some of the papers and speeches, were drawn from such widely divergent points, is an assurance that the fame of our gold fields has gone abroad to some little extent at least.

Last summer a convention was held here under the auspices of the Canadian mining institute. Only one gentleman attended it from the outside, and he, by the way, is the secretary of the institute. What a change in a few short months! If anyone had then ventured to predict, that an 1897 convention would occur in Rat Portage under the auspices of a local body called the Mining Exchange, that its sessions would be held in a splendid new opera house, and that they would be largely attended by gentlemen from different parts of the world, eminent in mining and geology, he would have been told that boom talk is something that Rat Portage very particularly objects to. And yet all this and more has come to pass so then if our progress has already gone beyond the fondest anticipations of a year ago, why should we not achieve a more advanced stage of development in another twelve months, than anyone at the present moment deems possible?

Mr. James Conmee, M. P. P., in spite of certain little troubles in connection with surveys which has brought him into contact with the local prospector in anything but a friendly manner, received a warm reception when he mounted the stage in answer to a request of President Drewry to say a few words to his much beloved constituents. Mr. Conmee seemed to appreciate his welcome and