

8-9 EDWARD VII., A. 1909

The CHAIRMAN.—They would not have to take it, but if it appealed to their good judgment they might do so. If we could produce such an excellent Act that they thought it would be better for them I have no doubt they would adopt it. They are just as anxious as we are to have the best regulations they can get.

Mr. Wm. CHISHOLM.—What about that resolution? Would it not be better to instruct the clerk of the committee to communicate with the secretary of the Mining Institute and inform him that the committee would be pleased if the institute sent a representative to discuss the matters covered by the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—That might do.

Mr. JOHN HERRON.—Before you put that I would like to state what my opinion is regarding a Royal Commission. I am of the opinion that a committee of some kind or a Royal Commission should have the power to go and examine the conditions in our country with reference to mines. I know they have not been satisfactory in the past and I think that summoning two or three men, for we could not subpoena very many men from a province, would only enable us to have the personal opinion of those men. There are no great mining organizations at least in my country, but a commission going over the ground would be able to get a vast amount of knowledge and ascertain the opinion of the men engaged in mining, both prospectors and operators. This parliament will meet again next November, and in the meantime, this committee or commission could prepare a report which would be of very great assistance and have it ready by the time we come back. I am of opinion that that would be the best thing to do.

Mr. Wm. CHISHOLM.—If we had the benefit of the experience of members of the Mining Institute that is perhaps just the conclusion we might come to, to have a commission to make inquiry in the various provinces. But before coming to a decision would it not be well to hear what the Mining Institute has to say? We do not know exactly what they want, except in a hazy way. If we heard their evidence and had an opportunity of examining them we might possibly come to the conclusion that the only thing to do would be to recommend parliament to appoint a Royal Commission to make full inquiry in different parts of the country.

Mr. JOHN HERRON.—I would like a little more information as to what this Mining Institute is composed of.

The CHAIRMAN.—Perhaps Mr. Brock, who is here, can give us some light.

Mr. R. W. BROCK.—The Canadian Mining Institute consists of mining men representing all parts of Canada. It has about 850 members. They are pretty well distributed over Canada, and I think probably the smallest representation is from the maritime provinces and Nova Scotia because they have there a flourishing mining institute. Still, Nova Scotia furnishes about 40 members. Alberta has a pretty fair representation. British Columbia has about 200 members and Ontario, of course, has the largest representation. Each one of the districts has its own local branch and questions of this kind are discussed by the local branches and recommendations are sent to the council of the Institute so that the Institute is able to get a pretty good idea regarding the general feeling of mining men throughout the country. I might say that this question of mining laws is one which has been discussed by the Canadian Mining Institute for a good many years so that the resolution which they passed represents no snap judgment but a gradually formed opinion.

The CHAIRMAN.—I know they have been discussing it for nearly ten years.

Mr. R. W. BROCK.—Practically since the Institute was founded. One of the reasons why they are asking for a commission or for some body of men to look into the question of mining laws is that the desire to get them on the most satisfactory basic principles. It is not so much a matter of details which of course would have to be settled according to the locality. But there are certain basic principles that are better than others, and it is to get at these and establish them for the Dominion and