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THE MINING ASSOCIATION AND ITS FUTURE.

THE popular verdict is that the Convention held in Victoria on the 25th of February, which resulted in the organization of the Provincial Mining Association was a great success. It might easily have proved a failure. To assemble from all parts of the Province men representing, if not every industry, at least all classes of industries, and invite them to enter into the consideration of such a many-sided interest as mining, might well be regarded as a somewhat hazardous experiment, and it speaks much for the intelligence of the assembly that so many as two hundred and fifty persons, for the most part unknown to each other even by name, representing a great diversity of interests, many of them with strong preconceived ideas—not to say prejudices—in certain directions should have gathered together without leadership or any defined programme or specific object, and yet have so effectively and harmoniously worked for the common good. The attitude which some of the newspapers took in respect to the promotion of the undertaking, afforded evidence that in certain quarters, at least, the Convention was considered to be foredoomed to failure; but it was evident, as soon as the delegates assembled, that they were animated by a singleness of purpose, and any doubts that may have existed as to the result of their deliberations were dispelled at the first session. At the outset a disposition was manifested on all sides to approach every question in a broad way, and to permit absolute freedom of discussion. No one man or no delegation controlled or sought to control the Convention. The representatives of capital, the working miner, the merchant and the professional man met on absolutely common ground. It was a thoroughly democratic body, and one in which there was easily seen to be no place for the individual with an axe

to grind or a hobby to ride. Practical results for the general welfare became the object of the discussions, and the deliverances of the delegates were unquestionably valuable contributions to the solution of the problems affecting mining in this Province.

There was one subject over which the Convention might very easily have come to grief, namely, the labour question, but it was met and dealt with in the happiest possible way, so as, in fact, to demonstrate to the wage earners that the Association is as much their organization as that of any other class. In respect to "labour" representation the Convention was singularly fortunate, the workmen's delegates being of moderate, though pronounced, views and exceptionally fitted to take their part in the proceedings of a deliberative body. If the Constitution of the Association had been so framed that such men would have felt that there was no place for them in the organization, the Convention would have been a failure, for its great claim to be recognized as a complete success rests upon the fact that it is able to appeal to all classes of the community for sympathy and support. The first practical step of the Association, the despatching of a representative committee to negotiate for the settlement of the coal miners' strike, demonstrated in the most conclusive way the wisdom of the attitude taken towards labour questions, and the success which has crowned the labours of that committee will do more than any other thing to establish the reputation of the Association in public opinion. It is a decided gain to the whole Province to have an organization brought into existence which is able to deal successfully with a peculiarly difficult labour dispute. The settlement of the Fernie strike is full of promise for the future, for it demonstrates that in the Association the Province possesses a body able, by reason of the elasticity of its constitution and the broadly representative character of its membership, to grapple successfully with questions of the gravest practical importance.

The discussions at the Convention took a very wide range, or rather they were carried on along broad lines. To this the presence of a considerable number of delegates, not directly concerned in the practical work of mining, very largely contributed. Before the Convention assembled there was some criticism on the grounds that many of the delegates had little if any knowledge or experience with actual mining work, but the discussions showed that the presence of such persons was an advantage. They formed a sort of jury to which the practical men addressed their arguments. Absolutely free from any suspicion of being animated by self-interest, their verdict on the several issues presented carried a weight with it that would not attach to recommendations made by interested parties. The value of the Mining Association will depend upon its effect upon public opinion, and at the Convention public opinion was admirably represented in miniature, so that the Government and Legislature have in the conclusions reached, not only a declaration of the requirements of those engaged in mining, but a trustworthy indication of what the public think should be granted them. Requests prepared by an Association composed of persons engaged in any one industry would naturally carry far less weight with them than recommendations emanating from a body a very large proportion of whose members can be said to have "stood indifferent" and whose decision was reached only after a full discussion.

That the attitude of the Convention was of this character speaks volumes for the tact and good judgment of those who were chiefly instrumental in promoting it. Had they been less tactful, had they evidenced a disposition to control things, had there been the slightest suspicion of any intention on their part



Some of the Delegates—A Photograph Taken in Front of the City Hall, Victoria.

Photo by Jones

to work the Convention for personal or particular ends, what proved to be a harmonious meeting would almost inevitably have resulted in discord. Instead of taking such a course they, without effacing themselves, left the work of the Convention largely in other hands, thus demonstrating the sincerity of their professions that their only desire in advocating organization was to secure a full, free and representative discussion of matters affecting mining interests. At the outset not a little surprise was manifested at the absence of any cut-and-dried programme or of anything like an attempt at machine control, and when the delegates fully appreciated that the Convention was what it purported to be, namely, a gathering in which all the members stood actually as well as nominally upon precisely the same footing, the discussions at once took on a degree of freedom which could not fail to produce the best results.

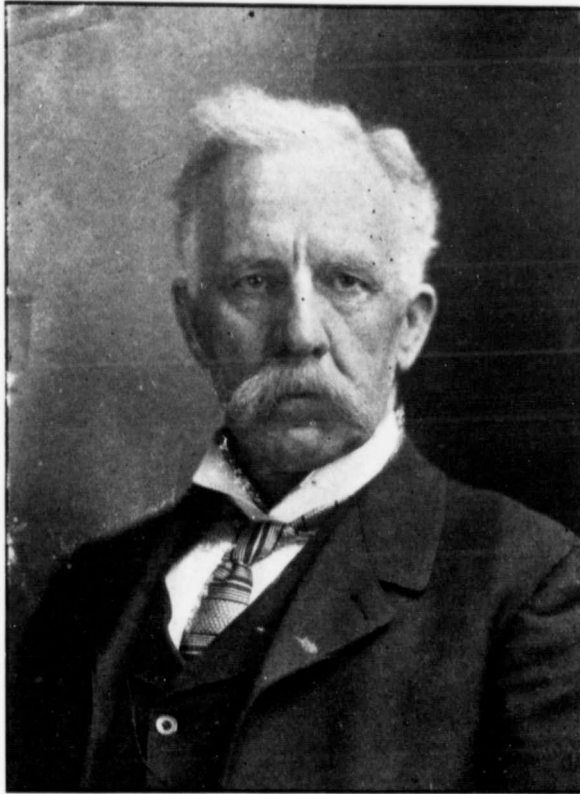
An association organized on the broad lines above indicated has all the elements of permanency and popularity. It can appeal to every community in the Province for co-operation in making it an established feature of our provincial institutions. To make it the success, which it may become, the enthusiasm, with which the suggestion of its organization was received must be kept alive. The burden of doing this will rest for the most part upon the Executive Committee, and it is not too much to say that upon the manner in which that body is able to discharge its functions the whole welfare of the organization will depend. Local associations will be formed; but the constitution of the organization does not appear to contemplate that these bodies shall be much more than the machinery whereby representatives to the Provincial Association shall be selected and funds shall be collected to meet expenses. This is a wise arrangement, for it would be very undesirable to have a large number of local bodies endeavouring to deal with questions affecting all parts of the Province alike. Therefore the responsibility of keeping the Association up to the high place in public esteem, which it secured by its first convention, will rest almost wholly upon the Executive Committee, and it is satisfactory to know that the composition of that body is such that this very serious task may be entrusted to it with the fullest degree of confidence. The Association very wisely limited itself to the recommendation of measures affecting mining. The proposal that it should ask the Government to submit for the approval of the Executive all contemplated changes in the law, though attractive at first sight, was seen to be unsound in principle and unworkable in practice and was accordingly abandoned; but this only increases the responsibility

of the Executive, which will have no light task before it in endeavouring to secure the crystallization into legislation of views of the Association. Plain sailing must not be expected. Governments are not always easily moved, and legislatures are often jealous of their prerogatives. It must not be expected that the thirty-eight gentlemen constituting the House of Assembly will abdicate their functions to any considerable degree in favour of the Mining Association. The Executive Committee has its work cut out for it, and its hands will be greatly strengthened if evidence is forthcoming which will convince the Legislature that the committee is really, as well as nominally, representative of the great body of the public, whose interests are identified with the welfare

of the mining industry. For this reason it seems desirable that the formation of local organizations should proceed forthwith, so that the Legislature will understand that the movement is something that must be reckoned with in the future. Therefore, while, as we have said, the success of the Association rests very largely with the Executive Committee and there is not much that local organizations can do to assist directly in that way, very much will be indirectly accomplished by the prompt formation of the subordinate bodies.

While there were differences of opinion on nearly every question discussed at the late Convention, nevertheless, as will be seen from the very full and officially authorized report of the proceedings published in this issue of the MINING RECORD, nearly all the resolutions were carried by substantial majorities, so that it cannot be claimed that the opinions expressed on the several subjects are not thoroughly representative. This fact should, and doubtless will, carry very great

weight with the Government and Legislature. It is not, of course, claimed that these bodies are in any way bound by the conclusions to which the Association came, but those conclusions ought to be valuable guides to future legislation, especially as by reason of the very full report of the proceedings of the Convention here presented, all who so desire can learn the reasons which influenced the delegates in reaching a decision. Meanwhile, we anticipate the most beneficial results from the work of the Association in the future. Let no one suppose that the organization aims at becoming a sort of unofficial legislature to deal with a certain class of subjects, and suggest annually a lot of changes in the laws relating to mining. But the Legislature may nevertheless wisely accept the good offices of so representative a body as the Provincial Mining Association in ascertaining what legislation it is believed should be introduced, or in what respect

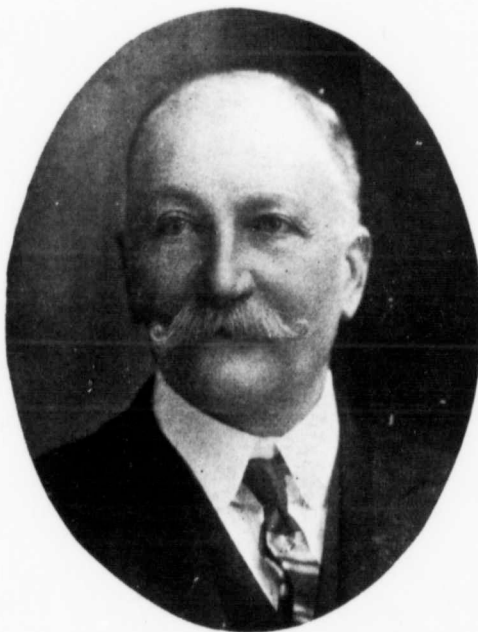


Mr. John Keen (Kaslo), President of the Association.

and manner the existing Acts may be amended, in order to serve the best interests of the mining industry of British Columbia.

It is now nearly six years since we first suggested in the MINING RECORD the idea of a Congress of Mining Men. The lists are still in existence—containing some fifteen hundred names—of those who signified a willingness to take part in the promotion of this initial undertaking. The first effort, however, fell through, as in good times such as five and six years ago we enjoyed, did likewise other endeavours started on similar lines. Then other organizations have been formed on exclusive principles—where membership has been restricted to individual classes. But none of these have accomplished much beyond stirring up unnecessary strife and thereby prejudicing their cause with the general public. At length, by reason of urgent necessity an Association, representative, unprejudiced, sympathetic and tolerant, recognizing the need and worth of co-operative work and measures, has been successfully organized. As long as it retains these qualities it will unquestionably exert a powerful influence for good and go far towards restoring prosperity and contentment to the mining districts of the Province.

A beginning has already been made in this direction, for it is freely conceded that in the settlement of the Fernie strike the Mining Association has fully justified its existence.



Mr. John Hobson, of Bullion, First Vice-President.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

Victoria, B.C.,

Wednesday, February 25, 1903, 11:00 a.m.

The Provincial Mining Association assembled for business this morning in the Assembly Room of the Board of Trade Building. The meeting was called to order promptly by Mr. A. L. Belyea, K.C., who, in his opening address, stated as follows:

Gentlemen.—This Mining Convention of British Columbia is open for business to-day. The business it has to do is one of importance, and since there are so many here at the opening meeting there is no reason why the work should not go on continuously until you have finished all you have in hand, and I hope you will have the satisfaction of knowing the work is well done, and if so it will not be without the proper effect upon the principal industry of this country, namely, the mining industry. The first business is the selection of a temporary Chairman and Secretary, and after that I presume the proper thing will be to select a Committee on Credentials,

and then you will decide whether you will appoint a Committee on Resolutions, and after that you will decide when you are to meet again, either this afternoon, or this evening.

The following nominations for temporary Chairmen were then made:—

Moved and seconded that Mr. John Keen act as Chairman.

Moved and seconded that Mr. A. L. Belyea act as Chairman. Mr. Belyea declined, the mover and seconder agreeing to the withdrawal.

Moved and seconded that Mr. J. B. Hobson act as Chairman. Mr. Hobson declined, the mover and seconder agreeing to the withdrawal.

Moved and seconded that Mr. Galt act as Chairman. Mr. Galt declined, the mover and seconder agreeing to the withdrawal.

Moved and seconded that Mr. D. W. Higgins, of Victoria, act as Chairman.

Mr. John Keen, of Kaslo, and Mr. D. W. Higgins, of Victoria, being the only two names before the Convention for temporary Chairman, it was moved and seconded that the nominations then close. Mr. Keen was duly elected temporary Chairman of the Convention.

MR. KEEN, of Kaslo—Gentlemen: I thank you very much on behalf of the members of the Upper Country of this organization in general for putting me in this position, and particularly for my own town of Kaslo, and as for the gentleman whom you have elected as your Chairman, I will undertake to say that he will do the best he can to expedite the proceedings, and do the best he can for you. Now, you all know we are here for business, to do it quickly

and then to go about our own business, and I hope that we will all get down to work, and work earnestly, because the situation is rather a unique one. It appears to me if we carried our minds back to fifty years ago we would almost consider it impossible that the mine owners, the mine workers, the professional men and all other classes should be moulded into one harmonious whole, and I hope this Convention will be for the benefit of all concerned. (Hear, hear.) This is one of the most important gatherings I think that Victoria has ever had, and I think Victoria should be congratulated on the splendid response made to her invitation. Now, it is simply the duty of the Chairman to be the voice of the meeting, and not to talk. What I would suggest is that you do nothing more this morning other than to elect the Committee on Credentials. I would ask you to pick out a bright, energetic committee who will get down to work, and we will meet this afternoon, and then we will be able to select other committees. I think now, gentlemen, it will be necessary for you to select a Committee on Credentials, and it is now in order for you to nominate a Secretary.

Mr. H. Mortimer Lamb, of Victoria, was elected Secretary to the Convention.

Mr. D. W. HIGGINS, of Victoria—There is a matter, Mr. Chairman, which might be referred to the Committee on Credentials, with reference to the number of Victoria and Vancouver delegates. Now, I understand according to the general plan adopted that twenty members, or one in so many, should represent the two districts. Victoria adhered to that, and has twenty delegates on the floor of this Convention, and I understand—without being aggressive, or in any way wishing to create any sectional feeling, Vancouver comes down with forty-six delegates. I think that it is a matter which should be pointed out to the Committee on Credentials, to have the Victoria deficiency made up.

Mr. Jos. HUNTER, M.P.P.—I am extremely sorry that Mr. Higgins has raised this question. We are, as it appears now, to have the usual scrap between Victoria and Vancouver. From what I can gather from the newspapers I see that there are fifty delegates to the Convention from Vancouver and twenty from Victoria. Of course that is not fair, and I think, sir, if there are 70 delegates to this Convention from Victoria and from Vancouver, taking them together, it is altogether possible that the proceedings of this Convention shall be dominated by these two cities. I am sure, sir, that no one would have any confidence in the deliberations of this committee or of this Convention if such is the case and I would therefore propose, instead of adding to the Victoria delegation it would be a graceful act to withdraw all the delegates except ten from each city, and then, sir, I am satisfied that the mining communities of British Columbia will have far more faith in the deliberations of this committee, and I would ask that they withdraw all the names from Vancouver except ten to that city, and also have Victoria do the same.

Mr. D. W. HIGGINS—Mr. Hunter says he is sorry I have raised this question, and yet almost in the same breath he has approved of it. I merely want to put the two places on an equal representation, and I submit that Victoria is entitled to as large a representation as Vancouver, and if it is intended to reduce the number to ten for both cities I will be one of the ten from Victoria to step out, but I say let each district appoint its delegates upon the system as arranged at first, which is one out of every twenty members, and I want to know whether Vancouver is entitled to this increase in number over Victoria. I claim Victoria is entitled to 40 delegates, and if we should reduce the number of delegates, then we will lose the advice of a number of gentlemen here from Vancouver. I ask you, gentlemen, to let the matter be settled now and forever. We do not want any sectional feeling, or any feeling which will tend to create an inharmonious spirit in this Association. Mr. Hunter has presented to us what he considers to be a cure, but which would prove very shortly to be an evil if it were allowed to be continued. I move, therefore, gentlemen, that this matter be submitted to the Committee on Credentials.

Mr. CHAIRMAN.—I would like to say one word. We are here in response to this circular, which I hold in my hand, and this circular reads as follows: "Each community is entitled to send one delegate for every twenty members, or one delegate in the case of a community of less than twenty members." Now, sir, it is not in our hands to deal with this question. This is the clause in the invitation on the strength of which all the district branches have sent their delegates, and therefore I ask you all to drop the names Victoria and Vancouver, and to substitute therefor the name of British Columbia. (Applause.)

Mr. J. B. HOBSON.—Mr. Chairman, you have expressed my sentiments exactly. The provisions of the call should be complied with. Merchants, business men, professional men and farmers are here in response to the call, to aid the miners in formulating plans that will result in bettering the depressed condition of the mining industry. So I think the committee will admit all presenting credentials without reference to the number of delegates sent from any particular city, town or district of the Province. We fear no one, and I feel satisfied every man who is here to-day is here to better the conditions of the mining industry, and therefore he should be admitted. It was a great mistake to issue any limitation to the number of the delegates who should come to this Convention.

Mr. A. C. HIRSCHFELD.—We have only twenty-two members here representing Vancouver. The names that are in the papers were the names submitted to our committee. There were also ten members selected at a special meeting, who are here to-day from the railway delegation, and which are included in those twenty-two, and that is all we have brought over from Vancouver, and we have some alternatives, but I may say here that there are only twenty-two of us here to-day. That is all I have to say to the meeting, and we did try the best we could to keep within that twenty.

Mr. D. W. HIGGINS.—After the explanation from Mr. Hirschfeld, I think any further arguments are unnecessary.

Moved by Mr. Belyea, seconded by Mr. C. D. Rand, That the Convention do now proceed to the appointment of a Committee on Credentials, and that the Chairman select one member from each of the districts represented. Carried.

Mr. A. C. Hirschfeld moved, seconded by Mr. A. L. Belyea, That when we do adjourn that we stand adjourned until 2:30 this afternoon to transact business, and to receive the report of the Committee on Credentials. Carried.

Mr. CHAIRMAN.—You have thrown the responsibility upon me to appoint the Committee on Credentials, and I propose to divide that responsibility. I will call out the various constituencies or districts which are represented here, and ask each to name their man and then we will have things harmonious.

The following delegates were then appointed to act as a Committee on Credentials:—

Aspen Grove—J. E. Bate.
 Armstrong—F. C. Wolfenden.
 Ashcroft—Isaac Lehman.
 Alberni—H. E. Newton.
 Barkerville—John Hopp.
 Bullion—F. W. Alexander.
 Bear River—Chas. Frank.
 Clinton—F. W. Foster.
 Cedar Hill—W. F. Loveland.
 Camp McKinney—N. Nicholson.
 Cowichan—Clermont Livingstone.
 Crofton—Hermann Bellinger.
 Duncans—Harry Smith.
 Ferguson—Frank Holden.
 Fairview—L. W. Shatford.
 West Coast—Chas. Dooley.
 Windermere—R. S. Gallop.
 Phoenix—Geo. W. Bumberger.
 Eholt—G. Arthur Rendell.
 Trail—R. M. Perdue.
 Kelowna—J. Dilworth.
 Trout Lake—J. Longstaff.
 Vernon—H. G. Muller.
 Victoria—Hon. D. W. Higgins.
 Vancouver—C. D. Rand.
 Van Anda—Alex. Grant.
 Quesnelle Forks—J. McRae.
 Quesnelle—Senator Hon. James Reed.
 Rossland—F. W. Rolt.
 Revelstoke—W. M. Brown.
 Slovan—A. Yorke.
 Sidney—T. A. Marshall.
 Nicola Lake—A. E. Howse.
 Nicola Valley—J. W. Collis.
 North Saanich—Clive Phillips-Wolley.
 Nelson—S. S. Taylor.
 Olalla—S. M. Peterkin.
 50-Mile—R. Borland.
 Queen Charlotte Island—W. H. Dempster.
 Kaslo—W. J. H. Holmes.
 Kamloops—H. G. Ashby.
 Lac la Hache—R. O. McClure.
 Lillooet—D. Herring.
 New Denver—W. S. Drewry.
 Fernie—J. H. Tonkin.
 Marysville—W. H. McMahon.
 Lytton—H. Graham.
 Ladysmith—T. Kiddie.

Fort Steele—H. Pollen.
 Grand Forks—Geo. Fraser.
 Greenwood—Ralph Smailes.
 Hedley—F. H. Wollaston.
 Golden—O. D. Hoar.
 Mount Sicker—W. Fuller.

Moved and seconded that H. Mortimer Lamb be added to the Committee on Credentials to act as Secretary. Carried.

Victoria, B.C., Wednesday 16th, 1903.
 2:30 p.m. (Afternoon Session.)

On calling the meeting to order in the afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the Chairman introduced His Worship Mayor McCandless, who expressed his desire to make a few remarks.

MAYOR McCANDLESS—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen. I had no idea when I came down here this afternoon that I would have been asked to address such a gathering as is here present, but I can assure you it affords me a great deal of pleasure to be able to say a few words to such a delegation as we have here to-day. I am sure, without an exception, that this is the most representative initial delegation that has assembled in British Columbia to represent either the mining industry, or for any other purpose. (Hear, hear.) I told your Chairman at noon that it was the intention of the Victoria delegates to this Convention to extend to you a hearty welcome this evening at the City Hall—a kind of informal reception—but some of the gentlemen here thought that owing to the pressure of business that you would prefer to be here. (Cries of "Hear, hear.") However, that remains with you. If you can spare the time to-night we will be delighted to meet you all at the City Hall and there extend to you in a most cordial manner, on behalf of the citizens of Victoria, a welcome to the Capital of British Columbia. We want, gentlemen, to get you together so that you can become better acquainted, and I might also say that the citizens of Victoria can express to you their good wishes and their good feeling towards this Convention. (Applause.) I think at the present time it is as little as I can do for you. (Laughter.) I can probably repeat it to-night if you come up there, but as Mayor of this City I extend to you a most cordial welcome, and I hope that after your return home you will have no reason to regret your visit to Victoria. Gentlemen, I hope that after this Convention is over, that your deliberations will be such that the cloud which has rested—for it does seem to me that a cloud has rested over the mining industry for the last three or four years—will be removed,

and mining will be placed where it belongs, a legitimate enterprise in which people can put their money with a certain amount of guarantee that they will get good returns for it. I think, perhaps, that this hall, as far as I can see, is going to be too small, and, gentlemen, if you think best, we offer you the City Hall, which is as large again, and anything we can possibly do for you we are only too willing to do. I thank you, gentlemen, for the privilege of addressing you, and I hope if you can spare time you will come up to the City Hall to-night. If you think the business is of greater importance, then go ahead with the business, and we will see you again. I have been asked to mention that we have a kind of programme arranged if you can see fit to come there to-night, and there will be instrumental music and a few songs,

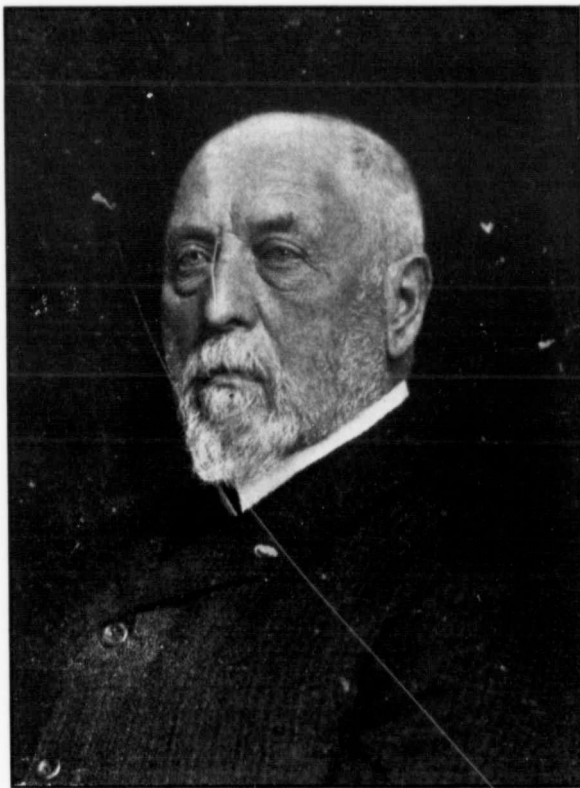
allowing a short intermission between each piece to go around and make yourselves better acquainted. I might also add that the Pacific Club is thrown open to all members and delegates, to make yourselves at home there, and I want you, gentlemen, if you are invited or not, to go up there and not wait to be introduced. We want every gentleman here to feel that he is at home.

DR. SINCLAIR (Rossland)—I would like to say this, as one of the delegates from the Interior. We have come a very long distance, and are necessarily spending some money, and I for one am exceedingly thankful for the very cordial invitation His Worship the Mayor has given to this Association, but we have come here to do business, and much as it is a pleasure for us to go there this evening, I think our first duty is to perform our business. We want to get away from the City of Victoria as soon as possible. (Laughter.) And we want to leave with the Mayor of Victoria and the citizens of Victoria as little money as possible. (Cries of "Oh, oh.") And for

that reason, and as we have got homes to return to, and business to attend to, I move an amendment to that motion that we proceed to business to-night, thanking the Mayor and citizens of Victoria for their cordial and kind invitation.

There was no seconder to the above amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—I am afraid my friend the Doctor does not know the hypnotic influences of the citizens of Victoria. I knew perfectly well when we came here that we would not be able to avoid temptation, but I did not assume for one moment that we were all going to succumb so easily; in fact, so soon that the Doctor could not get a seconder to his amendment. Your Worship, we shall be on hand this evening. (Applause.)



Mr. D. W. Higgins, of Victoria, Second Vice-President.

MR. TOWNSEND.—I move that the next meeting of this Convention be held at the City Hall at 10 a.m. Carried.

It was then moved and seconded that Mr. M. H. McMahon act as Assistant Secretary. Carried.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was then read by Mr. H. Mortimer Lamb, being as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.—Your committee appointed for the purpose of examining the credentials of delegates to this Convention, beg to report as follows: The committee met at 12:30 p.m., Mr. D. W. Higgins being appointed to the chair. The credentials of the following delegates were presented and duly accredited:

Atlin—F. M. Loveridge, J. Kirkland, W. Wallace Grime, C. Dubois Mason, J. W. Taylor, J. Leatherdale, H. P. Pearse, F. M. Dockrell, J. H. Brownlee, O. W. Johnson, Thos. Blair, J. Holt, J. Stables, M.P.P., Commanter Hawthorne.

Aspen Grove—J. E. Bate.
 Armstrong—T. C. Wolfenden.
 Ashcroft—J. E. Knight, Isaac Lehman, Jas. B. Leighton, Stuart Henderson.
 Alberni—H. E. Newton.
 Barkerville—John Hopp, F. C. Laird, H. E. C. Carry.
 Bullion—J. B. Hobson, F. W. Alexander, J. K. Barker.
 Bear River—Chas. Frank.
 Chemainus—P. J. Pearson.
 Colwood—A. H. Peatt, James Phair.
 Clinton—F. W. Foster, M. Gillvray, J. W. Pearson, G. D. Roard.

Cedar Hill—W. F. Loveland, J. Shopland, C. E. King.
 Camp McKinney—Henry Nicholson.
 Cowichan—Mr. Livingston, H. Smith, T. A. Wood.
 Crofton—H. C. Bellinger, E. E. Taylor.
 Clayoquot—T. A. Marshall.
 Eholt—R. H. Anderson, G. A. Rendell.
 Ferguson—F. Holden, D. G. Forbes, R. Hodge, J. Sutherland.

Fairview—L. W. Shatford, Byron Guest.
 Fort Steele—J. A. Harvey, H. Pollen, J. T. Laidlaw, J. B. Langley.

Fernie—J. B. Tonkin, S. Bownell, D. V. Mott, Hugh Dixon.
 Grand Forks—A. C. Flumerfelt, Martin Burrell, W. M. Spiers, Geo. Fraser, F. M. Kerby, W. K. C. Manly, W. A. Dinsmore, J. B. Henderson (alternate), W. F. Thayer.

Golden—H. G. Parson, O. D. Hoar.
 Greenwood—Frederick Keffer, A. J. Godell, Ralph Smailes, W. G. Gaunce, Henry Johns, H. P. Dickinson, Sydney Oliver, Wm. Essensa, M. Galbraith.

Hedley City—F. H. Wollaston, C. H. Arundell, F. Devereux.

Horsefly—Joseph Hunter, M.P.P.
 Kaslo—W. J. H. Holmes, W. V. Bradshaw, J. Keen, Mr. McAndrews, Mr. Whatney, W. V. Popwitt, W. A. Davies.

Kamloops—H. G. Ashby, M. Delaney, A. N. Gray, T. J. Roadley, A. W. Gray.

Kelowna—J. Dillworth.
 Lac la Hache—R. D. McClure.

Lake Bennett—Randolph Whitfield.
 Lillooet—Dan. Harley, W. J. Abercrombie.

Ladysmith—T. Kiddie, W. Jones.
 Lytton—H. Graham.

Marysville—W. H. McMahon.
 New Denver—W. S. Drewry, Geo. H. Dawson.

Nicola Valley—J. W. Collis.
 Nicola Lake—A. E. Howse.

North Saanich—T. W. Paterson, M.P.P., Geo. G. Sangster, Clive Phillipps-Wolley, J. Brethour.

New Westminster—J. Thompson, H. A. Eastman, J. S. Hall, Wm. Manson, J. J. Campbell.

Nelson—R. Hedley, J. M. Hedley, P. Maulin, J. M. Block, Mr. Gigot, S. S. Taylor, F. S. Farrell, R. Robertson, G. McDonald, A. H. Gracey, F. C. O'Reilly, Capt. Duncan, W. Leslie Hill.

Olalla—S. M. Peterkin.

150-Mile—E. A. Carew-Gibson, M. Menton, Robt. Borland, J. Forester, J. P. Murphy.

Phoenix—Geo. W. Rumberger, James Punch, J. W. Astley, F. Heselwood, H. Heidman, W. R. Williams, W. J. Porter.

Queen Charlotte Island—W. H. Dempster.

Quesnelle Forks—J. McRae.
 Quesnelle—Hon. J. Reid.

Quesnelle Lake—James Moore.
 Rossland—Dr. Sinclair, E. B. Kirby, G. W. McBride, A. C. Galt, K.C., R. A. Hobbes, Britton Duke, Stephen Deschamps, W. B. Townsend, A. S. Goodeve, F. W. Rolt, H. G. Seaman, A. G. Moody, Paul Coudry, B. R. Warden, J. W. Paulson, A. McMillan, R. B. Wrightson, R. Marsh, Mayor Dean, K. Martin, Smith Curtis.

Revelstoke—J. M. Scott, A. Johnson, W. M. Brown, F. McCarty, E. A. Haggan.

Sandon—W. S. Drewry, B. Wilson.

Slocan—A. York, J. W. Purvence, W. H. Davidson, W. D. McGregor, F. D. Woodstock.

Sydney Inlet (West Coast)—W. James Jones, Dr. Marshall, John McInnes.

Sechart—W. Pooler.

Soda Creek—Wm. Adams, John Hopp.

Stanley—H. Jones, Joseph Hunter, M.P.P.

Trail—Noble Binns, W. H. Aldridge, D. Moore, R. M. Perdue, C. A. McNally, J. M. Turnbull, A. D. Dickson.

Trout Lake—G. W. Stead, H. McPherson, J. J. Longstaff, J. C. Murray.

Vernon—H. G. Muller (two proxies), A. Watson, J. A. McKelvie, C. B. Lefroy.

Victoria—A. L. Belyea, Dr. T. J. Jones, Henry Croft, D. W. Higgins, A. A. Sparks, J. W. Boldon, H. Mortimer Lamb, Capt. L. Thompson, C. Dubois Mason, J. C. Waters, A. B. Fraser, Sr., Roland Machin, H. B. Thompson, H. G. Scott, A. S. Emery, A. Johnson, Julius Meinecke, C. H. Lugin, C. Hayward, M. McEachern.

Vancouver—A. C. Hirschfield, W. D. Haywood, E. F. Gilman, Chris Foley, Jas. Watts, H. W. Vance, Darek McDonald, Peter Land, W. H. Ketchum, F. E. Woodside, John McLaren, F. E. Holt, T. J. Smith, F. H. Lantz, C. D. Rand, Frank Richards, A. E. Blackburn, J. E. Botterell, R. B. Skinner, J. Bamfield, John Scott, G. H. Dawson, Thos. Dunn, P. W. W. King, A. St. Geo. Hamersley, G. Sheldon Williams.

Van Anda—Alex. Grant, J. D. Fraser.

West Coast—C. Dawley.
 Windermere—R. S. Gallop, R. R. Bruce, Geo. E. Hate.

Millstream (Vancouver Island)—W. Lorimer.

A discussion arose as to whether the Convention could recognize proxies. A motion to the effect that proxies would not be allowed was, however, lost, and an amendment permitting the employment of proxies carried. On motion of Mr. S. S. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Rand, the committee decided that the only other credentials to be considered by this committee will be those of delegates who will be actually in attendance.

Moved and seconded that the report on credentials be adopted. Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I will ask the committee to remain as a committee until to-morrow, as there are several gentlemen coming to-night. We have a telegram stating that delegates have just arrived here—dated from Vancouver—this morning: "Atlin delegates just arrived—Amur; arrive Victoria to-night," so it will be necessary that they be turned over to the hands of the committee, and they will meet with us to-morrow morning. Now, gentlemen, I will make two suggestions to you, and then I will take your opinion about it. I suggest, first, that you appoint a Committee on Constitution and By-laws which will frame a Constitution to guide our paths from pitfalls in the future. I should suggest, also, that you appoint a Committee on Resolutions, each committee to sit here this afternoon and receive suggestions for resolutions. I know that there are a number of gentlemen in this room who have suggestions to make, but they don't care about taking an active part in it themselves. I would therefore suggest that they make these suggestions which they desire to make in writing—not necessarily signed unless they choose to sign them, and then the Committee on Resolutions shall take them up and thresh them out to their dry bones, and let us have the quintessence to-morrow morning. With these suggestions I leave the matter in your hands.

MR. HIGGINS—I recommend a Rules Committee somewhat on the same lines, because I recognize the importance of starting business with a code of rules of order, they being paramount. They certainly would be a great comfort and assistance to you in guiding this meeting, Mr. Chairman, and therefore I move that a committee of five delegates be appointed to frame a report on rules for the guidance of this body. I place that distinct from the other because it must be considered as an emergency matter—a few very simple rules are all that are necessary, and then they can go to the Constitution and By-laws Committee, and they can pass upon them. It will be a guide to you in case an obstreperous person gets up like myself. (Laughter.) I move, therefore, that a committee of ten delegates be appointed to frame rules for the guidance of the deliberations of this body.

MR. S. S. TAYLOR.—Mr. Chairman, you are putting that motion in a hurry. We should have a Constitution and By-laws, which should, of course, embrace that, because I know as a matter of fact a great many want to know upon what basis this organization is to be operated in future. I therefore ask that the gentleman who made the motion ask that it be put again so that we can reconsider it.

MR. HIGGINS.—My one object in making this motion is that the rules of order are wanted immediately. The Constitution is a matter which requires a great deal of thought, but the rules can be arranged in a very short time. The same committee can act again on the Constitution and By-laws, or another committee can be appointed. I therefore adhere to my resolution.

Moved by Mr. S. S. Taylor that the same committee be a committee appointed to prepare the Constitution and By-laws for the guidance of the Mining Association of British Columbia.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—The resolution is that a committee of ten delegates be appointed to frame and report on the Rules of Order and the Constitution and By-laws for the government and guidance of members at meetings of this body.

MR. HIGGINS—Leave out "at meetings of this body."

MR. S. S. TAYLOR — For the government and guidance of this Association.

MR. CHAIRMAN—As amended it will be — "That a committee of ten delegates be appointed to frame and report on the Rules of Order and the Constitution and By-laws for the government and guidance of members of this Association."

A DELEGATE—I move that we call upon the secretary of the preliminary organization, and also the Chairman of the Association, as we would like to hear from both of them as to what they have done, and also what the plans are for this Association. It will open up a general discussion, and I think it will be easier for you, Mr. Chairman, and more satisfactory to all to have an explanation of what has been done.

MR. J. B. HOBSON — For the information of the gentlemen present, and for the particular information of the gentleman who referred to this matter, I would state that there has been

nothing done but to call a Convention of miners and those interested in mining to meet here; nothing else. You are free to frame a Constitution and By-laws, a Code of Rules of Order and Order of Business for the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia.

The motion to appoint a Committee on Constitution and By-laws was then carried.

A DELEGATE.—As there are a great many members of this Convention who are very desirous of hearing the views of the organizer of this Association, Mr. Hobson, we would like very much if Mr. Hobson would give us the benefit of his experience in regard to the Association in California.

MR. HOBSON.—I have not been feeling very well for the last



Mr. A. B. Fraser, Sr., of Victoria, Treasurer.

ten days, so will confine myself to a brief address that will outline the policy of the Association. You are not here to listen to long speeches, you are here for most important business.—

"Gentlemen,—I congratulate you upon the favourable auspices under which you meet here to-day. Your prompt response to the call for a Miners' Convention proves conclusively that you are here to make a united and determined effort to better the conditions surrounding the mining industry, and to encourage the development of the vast mineral resources of the Province.

"You are here to-day, gentlemen, for the purpose of organizing a Provincial Mining Association, the object of which will be to encourage and foster the development of the mining industry, which must be considered the paramount industry of the Province.

"The Association, as I understand it, will not be a technical one, concerning itself with the science and practice of mining; nor a commercial and financial one, concerning itself with mining properties and investments; nor should it have anything to do with labour problems, or interfere in any way with labour unions. Most of the mining organizations of the world have been formed for these and similar purposes (with the exception of the California Miners' Association which has attained such wonderful success.)

"This Association from its beginning should make united efforts to secure legislation in behalf of the whole mining industry, and otherwise promote and protect the legal rights and privileges of miners, prospectors, mine owners, and mining investors.

"In all other matters of general importance, it should represent the whole mining interest, and express its policy, and this will be the second association organized in the world in the general interest of the mining industry.

"It should represent the concentrated influence of the population of the Province directly and indirectly interested in the industry of mining. Its influence will be strongly felt in the halls of Parliament and the Provincial Legislature.

"Through being composed of men representative of the best ability and character in the British Columbia mining field, by adopting conservative measures and conciliatory methods, and working with energy to secure its ends, it will attract and maintain the confidence and respect of the people. It will do much to improve the present depressed condition of the industry and restore confidence in the legitimate mining investor, who is required to assist in placing the mineral indus-

try of the Province on the basis for large and profitable production.

"I feel confident, gentlemen, that the Association you will organize to-day will maintain its vitality so long as there is mining done in the Province of British Columbia.

"The success of the Association will depend upon the basis upon which it will be organized, so I urge upon you to be careful to organize upon a carefully laid foundation. If this is done, the Association cannot fail to be a grand success, and general prosperity will surely result." (Applause.)

MR. CHAIRMAN.—Now, gentlemen, you have authorized a committee to sit on By-laws and Constitution. I think you had better now proceed to name your committee.

Moved by Capt. Thompson, and seconded by Mr. Lugin, that the appointment of the Constitution and By-law Committee rest with the chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—You place the chair in rather a difficult position; with over two hundred fine men before me it is rather a difficult task.

A Voice — That is what we put you there for. (Laughter.)

MR. CHAIRMAN.—I will appoint Mr. C. D. Rand, D. W. Higgins, J. B. Hobson, Chris Foley, A. C. Galt, Hon. Senator Reid, S. S. Taylor, K.C., W. S. Drewry, J. Stables, M. P.P., and A. C. Flummerfelt.

Moved by Mr. E. B. Kirby, seconded by Mr. Townsend, that a committee be appointed to prepare resolutions to submit to this Convention at its session to-morrow morning, and that this same committee, since it consists of ten, be appointed to prepare these resolutions.

MR. DEAN — I move that that Committee on Resolutions be formed by a representative from each of the mining districts.

Carried.

MR. WILLIAMS — I move that the vote be reconsidered, as otherwise the committee would be too cumbersome.

CAPT. LIVINGSTON THOMPSON.—I beg to move that the Committee on Resolutions consist of ten, and that it shall be appointed by the chair.

MR. A. C. GALT.—Of course, we are all very much interested in getting through this as speedily and promptly as possible. Not for the reason that Dr. Sinclair has given us this morning, that he wishes to escape from Victoria and not spend his money here; but we feel there is a great deal of important business to be brought before the Convention. Now, with regard to the gentlemen appointed on the Committee on Resolutions, it struck me at the time as being a very large number, and I would suggest that the matter be left in the hands of a smaller number, because it will be open for us to



Mr A. L. Belyea, of Victoria, Secretary.

make suggestions to the committee and hand them into the committee for them to consider, and I think a committee of two or five would be quite sufficient. I therefore move that the Chairman of this Convention appoint a committee of five to frame these resolutions.

MR. WILLIAMS.—I would like to move an amendment that the Committee on Resolutions should consist of ten.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—Five is the motion.

MR. WILLIAMS.—I would like to move an amendment that it consist of ten.

MR. A. L. BELYEA.—I know that in bodies like this it is very necessary to have committee work promptly done, because if the committee work is delayed it keeps everything back. Now the larger your committee is the longer it is going to take to accomplish any subjects you assign to that committee. I think we might be able to divide the Province up into five districts, and give each one of these districts a representative. I throw this out merely as a suggestion. Take the Kootenay and give them a representative and the same with the Boundary country, Cariboo, Vancouver Island, and the Lower Mainland, and I think you can select a committee of five in that way so it will be fairly representative of the different interests as well as the different districts.

A Delegate.—What about Yale?

MR. BELYEA.—That is included in the Boundary district.

MR. DEAN.—Mr. Chairman, in support of my motion, I would say my chief reason in suggesting a representative should be chosen on that committee from each of the districts is this—that in the first place every district would feel that they had their desires fully ventilated in that committee, and in the next place, when that committee had made its report to this meeting that a large number of the audience would be prepared to support the findings of the committee. I think you will find if you have a very small committee you will miss the proper representation of probably some particular interest. For example, I would just mention now that Mr. Belyea omitted to mention the Slokan district.

CAPT. THOMPSON.—Now, as I have accepted the reduction from ten to five, I think it would be well to say that we want men to draw the resolutions who are accustomed to make resolutions, so that those who have resolutions to make will be able to be heard through the Resolution Committee. Therefore, I move that a small committee of five should take up this matter. The amendment was lost.

MR. ROLT, of Rossland.—With regard to this committee, it does not appear to be understood what are to be the functions of this committee. I should like to have it clearly understood. Is it a committee that has the power to weed out, or has it the power to accept any subject of debate which is put before it?

MR. CHAIRMAN.—It would be impossible to suppress any resolutions that they might want to bring forward. The object of the Committee on Resolutions is to lick things into shape and present them to you in the simplest form so that you can handle them. The resolution is handed up by someone, and we may not understand the language or the drift of it, or what the object of it is, but if it goes through the Committee on Resolutions they put the thing in shape. It is for us to either recommend or dispose of it. They put it forward, and the Convention can do what it likes with it; it is to shorten labour and save time that this method is adopted. Now, the only point involved in the amendment is the question of number. Mr. Dean moves that the committee be formed from one of the delegates from each of the districts represented. Mr. Thompson moves, seconded by Mr. Skinner, that the Committee on Resolutions consist of five members to be appointed by the Chairman.

A Delegate.—Mr. Chairman, I think we are all beating about the bush. I think the point that sticks in the gizzard is that there is the natural fear if a very small committee is appointed, it will tend to take away the main object for which the resolution was brought forward, and I think any man has a right to bring forward any resolution he likes.

A Delegate.—Mr. Chairman, allow me to make an observation. It seems to me that it would be safer to have a large committee. The gentleman who depends on the opportunity which he will have to present a resolution, unless it has gone favourably through the hands of the committee, will find that he will not have very much of an opportunity to get it passed at this meeting.

MR. JOS. HUNTER.—If that is the case, I entirely differ on the appointment of this committee. If I move a resolution, I propose to put it before this meeting in my own words, and I do not propose that my liberty be restricted in that manner, and if that is the object of the committee, then I say that it is not necessary to have such a committee at all. It would be simply a means of restraining and restricting the liberty of this Convention.

MR. GALT.—All I want to say is that there cannot possibly be any desire on the part of any member here to seek for himself or his little constituency some private advantage. If he intends to do so he will certainly be defeated. It is open to any and all of us to introduce our resolution in our own words, so that the only effect of appointing a committee of five, or any other number, is to save the time of this Convention, and its object as far as possible is to sift out those things which are really material and substantial which are to be brought before this Convention.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS.—I move that the Credentials Committee should appoint a body of ten from the body of delegates present. Seconded by Mr. Howse.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—Now, I think I have them all, gentlemen. I will put the last one first. Moved that the Committee on Credentials select a committee of ten to pass on resolutions. That is the first amendment I shall put to you.

The question was then put, and the amendment was carried.

MR. D. W. HIGGINS.—I want to say something which is of importance to yourselves, and to the members of the press. We are brothers here for a common purpose, and ought to know each other, but we don't. Therefore I would ask if the members rising in their seats will kindly mention their names and the districts which they represent; it will greatly accommodate the press, and it will also assist you all. (Hear, hear.)

Moved by Mr. Marsh that all resolutions to be laid before the meeting should be in writing. Motion seconded and carried.

MR. McMILLAN, of Rossland.—There will be a great deal to come before this meeting, and I would like to make this suggestion that the speeches take no more than five or seven minutes, or something like that.

Victoria, B. C., 27th February, 1903.

City Hall, 10:00 a.m.

The Convention was called to order shortly after 10 o'clock by the Chairman, Mr. Keen, who announced that arrangements had been made for the delegates to be photographed in a group at the conclusion of the morning session.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—The next communication I have to make to you only shows that Victoria is bent on intoxicating this delegation. I told you their seductive influences were powerful and great. The citizens extend a hearty invitation to the delegates to visit the opera, "The Chinese Fete," to-night or to-morrow. The report has been sent in by the Committee on Constitution and By-laws.

REPORT OF CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 1. This organization shall be known as the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia. Carried.

Sec. 2. The objects of this Association shall be to protect, develop and foster the mining industry of British Columbia in all its branches. Carried.

ARTICLE II.

Sec. 1. The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee consisting of twenty-five

members to be selected to the number of five from each of the following classes, viz:

- Class One.*—Prospectors, mine workers and smelter workers.
- Class Two.*—Mine operators and owners.
- Class Three.*—Smelter owners and managers.
- Class Four.*—Business and professional men.
- Class Five.*—Farmers and ranchers and others. (Carried.)

Sec. 2. All officers to serve for the period of one year, or until their successors are elected or appointed. (Carried.)

Sec. 3. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association shall be ex-officio officers of the Executive Committee. (Carried.)

Sec. 4. A General Convention of this Association shall be held annually in Victoria, or such other place as may be selected by the preceding Annual Convention, the date to be fixed by the Executive Committee. (Carried.)

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee of this Association shall have full power to transact all business of the Association, except such as shall be transacted at any general meeting of the Association.

Sec. 2. The district organizations shall submit for the consideration of the Executive Committee all questions, matters and resolutions that they may desire to have submitted or brought before the Government or Legislature of the Province, or the Government or Parliament of Canada, and the Executive Committee shall have the sole and exclusive right and power to convey or submit to such Governments, Legislature or Parliament, such questions, matters or resolutions, and may so convey or submit the same as forwarded by the district organizations or as modified or changed by the Executive Committee, or may decline to so convey or submit the same.

Sec. 3. No new legislation or amendment of any existing legislation shall be sought by a district organization, except through the medium of the Executive Committee, who shall have power to modify or change any such suggested legislation or to decline to submit the same to either of the Governments aforesaid or to the said Legislature or Parliament.

Sec. 4. All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to the public, and a full report of all its proceedings must be made to the next Annual Convention.

Sec. 5. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and sign all cheques and drafts drawn on the Treasurer; provided, however, that such cheques and drafts have been passed by the Auditing Committee in the manner provided for in the Constitution and By-laws of this Association, and perform such other duties as are herein prescribed, or as usually pertain to that office. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform all the duties of that office.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep full and correct minutes of all meetings of this Association and of the Executive Committee, and to render annually to the Association a full report of all the transactions of his office, or to the Executive when requested to do so by the President; receive all moneys of the Association, paying the same to the Treasurer and taking his receipts therefor, and perform such other duties as may be required of him either by the Association or the Executive Committee thereof. The Secretary shall give bonds in such sum as the Executive Committee may determine, for the faithful performance of his duties, such bond to be approved.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys of the Association and deposit said money in a bank designated by the Executive Committee, and pay the same only upon orders drawn by the Secretary and passed by the Auditing Committee. He shall render an annual report to the Association, and, upon the request of the President or the Executive Committee shall, at any time, furnish to said committee a statement of the condition of the funds of the Association. The Treasurer shall give bonds in such sum as the Executive Committee may determine, for the faithful per-

formance of his duties, such bond to be approved by the President.

Sec. 8. All accounts against the Association must be approved by the Auditing Committee before being paid.

Sec. 9. All cheques and drafts of this Association must be prepared by the Secretary and signed by the President, or in his absence by the Vice-President and Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV.

Sec. 1. The headquarters of this Association shall be in the City of Victoria.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee of this Association to at once proceed to the formation of district organizations. Such district organizations shall be recognized as branches of the Association; provided, however, that no city, town, village or other locality shall have more than one district organization.

Sec. 3. All persons friendly to the mining interests are eligible to become members of the various branches of this Association. In the event of there being no district organization in the district where he resides, any person may unite with the Association by forwarding his name to the Secretary thereof and paying an initiation fee of one dollar (\$1.00), and he will be furnished by the Secretary with a certificate of membership. District organizations may admit non-residents as members.

Sec. 4. The annual membership dues for all branches of this Association will be as follows, viz:—

	Per Annum.
Wholesale Mercantile Houses and Financial Concerns	\$10 00
Manufacturing Concerns	10 00
Mining Companies	10 00
Hotel Keepers and Saloon Keepers	5 00
Retail Merchants	5 00
All other members	1 00

Sec. 5. Any such wholesale mercantile house, manufacturing concern, mining company, hotel or saloon keeper, or retail merchant, paying the fee above provided, shall be entitled to nominate a representative to act as a member of the district organization receiving such fee.

Sec. 6. All dues must be collected by the district branches, and fifty (50) per cent. of same paid to the Secretary of The Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia. The remaining fifty (50) per cent. shall be retained by the district branches to pay for the cost of collection of dues and for the maintenance of said branch association, and expenses of delegates to any meeting of the Association.

Sec. 7. The annual dues of this Association shall be paid on or before the first day of January in each year.

Sec. 8. Each district organization shall be entitled to one delegate to the Annual Convention for each twenty members, or fraction thereof, in good standing, to be selected as such district organization may determine; provided, however, that no city, town, village or other locality shall be permitted to send more than twenty delegates.

Sec. 9. This Association shall be non-political, and shall have nothing whatever to do with labour problems; nor shall it interfere in any way with labour unions.

Sec. 10. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Convention of the Association upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2-3) of the delegates present.

BY-LAWS.

1. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to appoint from among themselves by vote, or through the President, or in his absence by the Vice-President, an Auditing Committee, which shall also serve as a Finance Committee, and such other committees as they or the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall deem necessary or proper. The duties of such committees shall be outlined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancy of the officers of the

Association or members of any committee, and they shall have power to remove any officer of this Association who is derelict in his duty, upon a two-thirds vote of all the members present at such meeting; provided that no officer shall be removed until he shall have been notified of the intended action of the committee and afforded an opportunity to be heard.

2. All parliamentary questions shall be determined in accordance with Bourinot's Manual of Procedure at public meetings, unless otherwise ordered by the Association, including Rules of Order adopted at the organization of this Association.

3. Unless otherwise ordered, the President shall appoint all committees of this Association.

4. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such time as they may determine. Special meetings of said committee may be called by the President whenever deemed advisable, and upon the written request of any five members of the Executive Committee the President shall call a meeting thereof.

Provided, that the fixing of headquarters does not preclude the holding of Executive Committee meetings elsewhere than in Victoria, as might be necessary or advisable.

5. That at all meetings of the Executive Committee seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Each member of the committee shall be notified personally by mail, or telegram, to his last known address, of each intended meeting.

6. The Secretary shall receive such compensation for his services as the Executive Committee may, from time to time, determine.

RULES OR ORDER.

1. The President shall preside at all meetings and preserve order. In case of a tie the President shall have the casting vote. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, a member may be selected by the meeting to act as presiding officer.

2. A delegate wishing to speak to any question must rise in his place, uncovered, give his name and the name of the branch he represents, and address the chair. He shall be allowed ten minutes in which to speak and shall not be allowed to speak more than once upon any question unless he be the mover of a substantive resolution, or by way of explanation.

3. Two delegates shall not occupy the floor at the same time. A delegate called to order must at once resume his seat; but he may appeal against the ruling, and the decision of the meeting shall be final.

4. A motion having been passed or negatived may be rescinded or reconsidered or amended or rejected at the same meeting by the vote of a majority of the delegates present.

5. All motions must be in writing and signed by the mover and seconder before being open for discussion.

6. Any of these rules may be amended or suspended by a majority vote of the delegates without notice.

JAMES REID,
Chairman.

These By-laws may be amended at any Annual Convention of the Association upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of delegates present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

AT MEETINGS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

1. Reading of notice convening meeting.
2. Reading of minutes.
3. Original communications.
4. Presenting resolutions.

5. Enquiries and answers thereto.
6. Presentation and consideration of reports of Officers and committees.
7. Motions.
8. Introduction and consideration of By-laws.
9. Unfinished business.
10. Election of officers and committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—Now, gentlemen, you have heard the interim report of the committee. What shall we do with it?

Moved by Dr. Sinclair, and seconded by Mr. Hirschfeld, that the rules of the Committee on Rules and Practice be hereby adopted. Carried.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

MR. LAMB—I have here the report of the Committee on Resolutions, which I shall read to you:—



Mr. Mostyn Williams, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Chairman.—Your committee beg to submit for your consideration the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the collection by the Government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood used by the owner upon mines and mineral claims for mining purposes should be discontinued.

Resolved, That the code signals for mine hoisting be repealed.

That the Boiler Inspection Act is productive of great hardships, and that the Legislature be urged to amend the same as follows:

1. To reduce the present excessive fees so that the same may conform to those prevailing in other provinces.
2. Conformity with the general practice in the other provinces and to accept the certificate of reputable boiler insurance companies.

3. The present rules adopted for calculating the strength and safe working pressure of boilers are unusually and unnecessarily severe, and these rules should be altered to conform to general engineering usage in Canada and the United States.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the law relating to free miners' certificates should be amended, so that failure to keep up a free miners' certificate shall not work forfeiture of rights acquired under it.

Resolved, That for the purpose of taxation Crown granted mineral claims should be placed in the same position as other mineral claims, and that the exemption from the tax imposed by section 145 of the Mineral Act should be extended to all groups of Crown granted claims, upon any one of which claims the assessment work for the whole group may have been performed.

MR. BELVEA—I will not trouble you with reading the long resolutions relating to the silver and lead question. They will be taken up afterwards one by one as you come to consider them. The committee has one or two other resolutions not

Ferne—Hugh Dixon.

Millstream—W. Lorimer.

New Westminster—H. A. Eastman, T. S. Hall, Wm. Manson.

Rossland—John Phillips.

Revelstoke—A. A. Haggen.

Vancouver—A. St. George Hammersley, G. Sheldon Williams, W. A. Cutler, Thos. Dunn, P. M. King, W. Richardson.

C. Dubois Mason was transferred to the Atlin list and H. P. Ben substituted for him on the Victoria delegation.

MR. FULLERTON—Just one moment, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know the rule in reference to alternatives. I was one of those appointed to take the place of any absentees. My name is Fullerton, and I would like to know the rule in regard to this. There are two alternatives here, myself and Mr. Mapleton, representing the interests of our delegates. Now, Mr. Walters has resigned, as far as I can understand, and some of our delegates cannot be present. We would like to know what our position is before we take any action whatever in this Convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Will you answer that, Mr. Higgins?

MR. HIGGINS—I think, Mr. Chairman, that it is quite proper that Mr. Fullerton should be placed on the regular membership of delegates, and that also Mr. Mapleton should act in the absence of a regular delegate. I therefore move that Mr. Fullerton be placed on the Victoria list of delegates in place of Mr. Walters.

DR. SINCLAIR—I have no objection to this gentleman taking this position, but he is only an alternate. I want to know if he is here to occupy the other man's position in his absence.

MR. HIGGINS—The other man has resigned.

DR. SINCLAIR—Then I have much pleasure in seconding Mr. Higgins' resolution. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Lugrin, seconded by Mr. Gaunce, that we now proceed to consider the resolutions.

MR. FULLERTON—Is it understood by us that all resolutions shall come up to this body and be dealt with by that committee before they are submitted to this meeting? It may be that the subjects which the committee have to report upon are of vital interest to this Convention as affecting the interests of this mining industry. Can a resolution be submitted dealing with the report of the committee to this Convention, or should it go to that committee first, and then be submitted to this Convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The matter was discussed yesterday. It was decided that a committee on resolutions should be appointed in order that they might thresh out the thing, and we should have the quintessence of their labours. If we were to do all the work we would be in difficulty all the time. It is only courtesy that we should hand in all the resolutions to that committee.

MR. J. B. HOBSON—I have a most important resolution for that committee. It affects the placer mining industry, and is of most vital importance to the development of the placer mining industry of this Province.

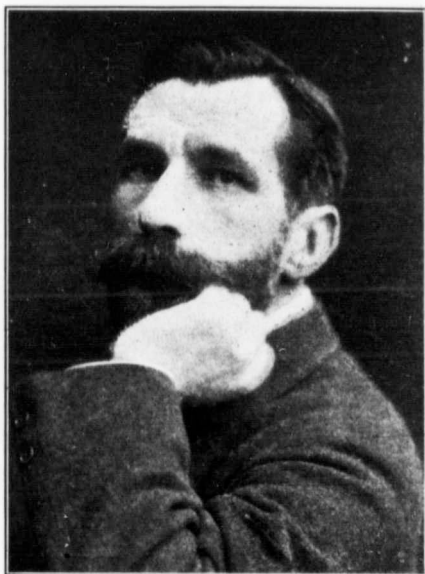
MR. CHAIRMAN—We will hand that to the Committee on Resolutions. You recollect the resolution. It is that the resolutions as recommended by the Resolutions Committee be now taken up. One is in reference to the resolution passed at Sandon, and the other is relating to the abolition of the two per cent. tax. Which one will we take up first?

MR. A. Grant moved, seconded by Richard Marsh, that the resolution dealing with the abolition of the two per cent. tax be taken first. Carried.

The Chairman read the resolution. It was as follows:

THE TWO PER CENT TAX.

Resolved, That the Government and Legislature of the Province of British Columbia are respectfully urged to abolish the so-called two per cent. mineral tax upon the output of mines, because of its injurious effect in restricting and re-



Mr. Clive Phillipps-Wolley, of Saanich, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Farmers.

yet completed, and I would ask the members of the committee to come outside to consider when we will meet again. One matter I would like to say is that if any of you have any suggestions to make or resolutions, I would ask that you pass them up at once in order that we can get at them, and we will take them up at the first meeting, and send them back to you. This will help us in getting through with our work.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—There is a further report of the Committee on Credentials.

THE SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman, the Credentials Committee met this morning and added the following names to the list already vouched for:—

Atlin—Wm. Loveridge, J. Kirkland, M. W. Grieve, C. Dubois Mason, J. W. Taylor, J. Leatherdale, H. P. Pearse, F. M. Dockrell, O. M. Johnson, Thos. Blair, I. Stoll, J. Stables, M.P.P., C. Haythorne.

Armstrong—F. C. Wolfenden.

pressing the mining of low-grade ores, and because of its effect in discouraging the investment of outside capital.

Mr. W. B. Townsend, Rossland, moved that the resolution be adopted. This was seconded by John Dean, Mayor of Rossland.

MR. J. MCGREGOR, of Victoria—I think, before that resolution is put through so briefly as that, we would like to hear from the members of up country what sort of taxation they propose to put on in place of that two per cent. tax. Merely to throw it out of existence would be satisfactory to some of the mine owners, but I think the majority of them are prepared to pay a tax of some sort, and I think if they don't propose to put any amendment specifying the reason of the abolition, they should give their reasons, and state what they propose to give in place of it.

MR. GALT, of Rossland—We all feel from the Upper Country that this is one of the very most important motions that will come before this Convention. We realize that every man here present in this Convention is anxious and willing to assist in the removal of any grievances which are real grievances to the mining industry, whether it happens to be a delegate who is not shipping any ore at all and is not paying the two per cent. tax, or whether it is the merchants who are not interested directly in the matter, that this tax has a very serious and deterrent influence upon the prosperous working of our mines. Now, in other words, it amounts to this: this two per cent. applies principally to the low-grade ores of the Province, and in this manner it is a tax upon the gross value of the ores shipped from every mine, only deducting the cost of freight and treatment at the smelter, and consequently, the mine owner has got to pay two per cent. on a sum which includes all his cost of mining. Now, it is easy for you to see where the difficulty lies. A single instance will show you the injustice of such a tax as that, when you consider the case of a mine owner who wishes to raise the sum of \$100,000, say, from the product of his mine. The lower the grade of his ore the greater the amount of the tax which he has to pay to the Government. Somebody might say that this tax is necessary in some cases, but it cannot be considered a just or equitable tax, as it is not only inequitable but very unjust, because as you go down from the higher grades of ore to the lower, you would at last reach a point (and one which concerns the majority of our ores, or the greater bulk of them) where it leaves a very narrow margin between profit and loss. Now the mine owner that develops that kind of a mine is doing the most possible good for this country, and I may say, in low-grade development work he can only do so if he has large bodies of ore to work, and in working these he necessarily employs a great many men, so practically the larger the body of ore is the greater number of men he employs annually, and as a consequence of the employment of these men he does more good to the Province at large. His employees are more numerous, and he builds up a little community around his mine. Every one of the men he employs pays a certain amount of taxes. In Rossland I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that the whole taxation of that town paid by every individual in it is really paid by the miners and those who own the mines. The whole community depends entirely upon the mines in that district, and if the three or more mines now working were closed down for good, of course Rossland would be wiped out absolutely in a few weeks, and of course the Government would lose all that taxation that they are now receiving from the people in that community. I am not an expert on this question—that is, I am not a miner myself, but I have had occasion to make a great many enquiries, and have heard a great many expert opinions expressed on the subject. The result of this taxation for one year on a single mine in Rossland—I think it was the Centre Star—amounted to 12 per cent. of their net profit. Now, you can readily see that this is a very high amount of taxation for any mine to carry or for any business to pay, and as the grades of ore lower—it can be demonstrated by more than one gentleman here—that the taxation at the rate of 2 per cent. will amount, and in some cases does amount to 15, 20 and even 22 per cent. of the net profits of the mine alone. I am quite sure that there is no gentleman here who will say

that the 2 per cent tax on the mines which are indirectly paying the taxes of all the community they are in, is a fair tax, a tax which compels them to pay 22 per cent. of all the net profits they make from the mine. In regard to the way mining has been operated in the past, I need not go into that, because you all thoroughly understand that it is in an exceedingly dangerous and wretched condition, the result of unwise legislation. The law in regard to the silver and lead mining industry has caused great distress; and the silver and lead mine owners are appealing to the Ottawa Government for relief from the burdens under which they are now staggering, and in face of that it is pointed out by the provincial mineralogist, who is prepared to show only the good side of our country, that the output of the mines in British Columbia has been increasing steadily, and last year there was a very large and substantial increase in the output, but neither the mineralogist, nor any member of the Government who is interested in putting on this tax, ever tries to show the other side of the question, namely what are the profits



Mr. C. Foley, of Vancouver, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Labour.

from the mines which are producing these immense outputs. And when I tell you, gentlemen, as many of you know, not one of these mines producing this enormous output has been able to pay a dividend during all the time which they have been operated, you will readily understand how much attention an investor would pay to the fact that they are making a tremendous output. The only way that these mines can be run is to operate them on a tremendous scale. The amount of ore shipped last year depended on two or three mines, but none of them are paying a dividend; and they are in a very unsatisfactory condition, and there is no inducement offered to investors to put any more money in the company. I therefore think we ought to have a very strong support from this Convention in asking the Government to repeal this unjust tax. Now, it has been stated that those who desire the repeal of the tax should offer some substitute to the Government to take its place. In the first place, several substitutes have from time to time been offered, and they have all been rejected, but is it after all any part of our duty to direct the Government? It

seems to me that this is a matter for them to decide what they shall put on in lieu of this taxation. They have had many points of evidence brought to their attention as to the unfairness of this tax, and it is open to them to decide what they shall do. And I say, gentlemen, when they are brought face to face with such a magnificent display of public opinion which we have here to-day, and when we point out a grievance which has injured the mining industry to a very great and terrible extent in this Province, it ill befits them to place a substitute in its place for so comparatively small an amount of money—a tax which has been imposed in a very reckless and unjust manner. No doubt some of you have not been aware of the extent of this tax, and have failed to grasp the peculiar iniquity of it. We all know that there is not a very large amount of money raised through the two per cent. tax, and as a matter of fact \$125,000 is about all that is taken out of the pockets of the mine owners by that tax, but the trouble is this, it is all taken out of the pockets of the very few miners who are holding on by their teeth to their prop-

erty, and who are doing their utmost and exerting their utmost endeavours to carry on their mine development and pay their accumulated tax, and this tax acts as a prohibitive in taking out the ore from the low-grade ore bodies of which I have spoken. That is where the injustice of the tax comes in. No mine owner is going to attempt to remove the low-grade ore bodies of his mines unless he is sure of making some substantial profit. Now, if you get down to a body of ore which will probably return only 25 cents on a ton, and the mine owners have to employ hundreds of men and incur the risk of the mine ever being a success, is it not an iniquitous thing that he should be called upon to pay 20 to 22 per cent. of any profit he may happen to make to the Government? Is it not an exceedingly unfair and objectionable mode of taxation. That is the position exactly which the mine owners of Rossland and the Boundary and other places where low-grade ore bodies exist to a large extent have to contend against, and that is the position in which we find ourselves. We have to take chances of having an accident, or running across barren streaks, and in the event of all that sort of thing

we have to take chances upon the success of the mine, and if after taking all these chances we happen to make a large output the Government steps in and says, hand over to us 22 per cent. of what little money you have been able to make out of your operations. I will say nothing more as I am not an expert in this matter, but that is just the position of the two per cent. tax. (Applause.)

MR. W. B. TOWNSEND—I would like to say a few words on this resolution and what I consider should take the place of this two per cent tax. We know from our past experience in Rossland that since the two per cent tax has been put on that the revenue is very much smaller, but we claim that if the two per cent. tax was taken off, our population would increase double to what it is at present, and the revenue from taxation from the increase of the population would more than treble what they now receive from this two per cent. tax, and I would therefore urge that the tax be abolished.

MR. E. B. KIRBY, of Rossland—There are two questions which are generally asked of us by those who have the two per cent. tax at heart. One question is how is this so burdensome? and the other question is, what do you propose as a substitute? The burdensome feature may be illustrated, I think, by three separate divisions when you come to analyze them. The first is that the tax, while not large in the aggregate, is paid by only a few mining companies. Only a few mine owners pay it, and it is unequally distributed among them. That is uniformly conceded. The second objection to it is that this tax, more than any other, has an odious reputation in Toronto, Montreal, London and New York—and I may say, the East generally. I do not think that any of you, except those who have been through those centres and have met the financiers who are interested in mining all over the world and in British Columbia can realize the extent to which that tax serves as an irritant, and as an objection, and also as an argument against the investment of capital in British Columbia, and I am strongly of the opinion that its repeal will do more than any other single step in the power of the Government to make the investors feel that we are making a turn in the right direction, and to show that the power of the Government and of all the people of British Columbia is now directed towards the aid of mining and to the repeal of unwise legislation. The third objection to the tax, and which was so well described by Mr. Galt, is that it has a very peculiar effect in its methods of operation, an effect which is entirely different to that due from any other tax, and that peculiar effect is that it is a progressive tax, a tax which gradually seizes a larger and larger proportion of the net profits as we go to lower and lower grades of ore. I know of no other tax in existence that has that peculiar effect and it is that fact which restricts the miners of your Province in mining the low-grade ores. I need not say to this mining assembly, representing as it does the brains of British Columbia in this industry, that the very back bone of the industry is the low-grade ore, and we shall have prosperity, and prosperity which will extend to all other districts in British Columbia when we get to mining these low-grade masses, and by this means we will establish an industry—not on the basis of certain bonanzas, but on the basis of a steady and long-time growth. I will just read you a few figures as sent out in a circular by the Rossland Board of Trade, which will illustrate clearly to everyone what is meant by this progressive increase in the tax:

HIGH-GRADE SMELTING ORE.

Assume gross value of	\$16 00
Cost of freight and smelting	6 00
Amount received by mine	10 00
Cost of mining and development	4 50
Net profit	\$ 5 50

The two per cent. tax figured on the above \$16 is a 20 cent tax which amounts to 3.6 per cent. of the net profit.



Mr. E. B. Kirby, of Rossland, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Quartz Mining.

erty, and who are doing their utmost and exerting their utmost endeavours to carry on their mine development and pay their accumulated tax, and this tax acts as a prohibitive in taking out the ore from the low-grade ore bodies of which I have spoken. That is where the injustice of the tax comes in. No mine owner is going to attempt to remove the low-grade ore bodies of his mines unless he is sure of making some substantial profit. Now, if you get down to a body of ore which will probably return only 25 cents on a ton, and the mine owners have to employ hundreds of men and incur the risk of the mine ever being a success, is it not an iniquitous thing that he should be called upon to pay 20 to 22 per cent. of any profit he may happen to make to the Government? Is it not an exceedingly unfair and objectionable mode of taxation. That is the position exactly which the mine owners of Rossland and the Boundary and other places where low-grade ore bodies exist to a large extent have to contend against, and that is the position in which we find ourselves. We have to take chances of having an accident, or running across barren streaks, and in the event of all that sort of thing

LOW-GRADE SMELTING ORE.

Assume gross value of	\$12 00
Cost of freight and smelting	6 00
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Amount received from mine	\$ 6 00
Cost of mining and development	4 50
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Net profit	\$ 1 50

The two per cent. tax figured on the above \$6 is now 12 cents, or 8.0 per cent. of the net profit.

HIGH-GRADE MILLING ORE.

Assume gross value of	\$ 8 00
Cost of milling and smelting concentrates with tailings loss	4 00
<hr/>	
Amount received by mine	\$ 4 00
Cost of mining and development on larger scale	3 50
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Net profit	50

The two-per cent tax figured on the above \$4 is eight cents or 16 per cent. of the net profits.

LOW-GRADE MILLING ORE.

Assume gross value of	\$ 6 00
Cost of milling and smelting concentrates, with tailings lost	3 25
<hr/>	
Amount received by mine	2 75
Cost of mining on larger scale, ore bodies already developed	2 50
<hr/>	
Net profit	25

So you will see as you get down to these low grades which we must sooner or later reach, that the tax exceeds and grows larger and larger, and is taken off the net profits; and I must say for our own companies, that we have been anxious for a long time to tackle the development of the low-grade ores in our mines at Rossland, and I know that that is the desire of our neighbourhood, but we have been over-riden by this tax. Our directors to-day are ready to invest large sums of money in the milling of this low-grade ore, but they say we dare not do it in view of these facts about the two per cent. tax. We do not wish to invest money by the hundreds of thousands in the present state of affairs when we are compelled to pay 20 to 22 per cent. of our net profits to the Government. I say, gentlemen, if that tax is removed mining will go ahead. (Applause.) One other point, and then I have finished. It has been asked why we do not propose a remedy. In the first place, gentlemen, it is not our business to do so. That is what we have a Government for. They are the ones to lay plans and to decide as to how the revenue shall be raised, and, further, gentlemen, I state they should remove it for the practical reason that there is a substantial unanimity of opinion among the mining men of the Province of British Columbia as to the evils of the two per cent. tax. I may say that I understand the Government is not strongly inclined towards reforming its policy in this respect; but the moment we start to propose remedies, then you will find as many different views as to the best substitutes to be had as there are members in this house to-day. However, let us stick to what we can agree upon, and get the Government to see that their duty is to find out how the revenues are to be supplied.

MR. W. S. DREWRY—There is one little change I would like to suggest. Strike out the words "low-grade." We are affected just as much as they are in the development of the high grade ores. Our cost of mining is from \$3.00 to \$8.00 per ton on the cost of production. I would like to see that change made at once. That is the only change I would suggest. Why I ask this is that in the present form it might convey

a wrong impression. The high-grade ore cannot bear the tax any more than the low-grade ores.

MR. LESLIE HILL, of Nelson—With regard to what Mr. Drewry has just said I would like to mention that at present we are engaged in developing low-grade ores, although we have only a small quantity, but we have to-day very extensive development work, which has cost a great deal, and the result of the two per cent. tax is that we are making no profit whatever. We are paying out in this two per cent. tax \$100 per month, which means we have to pay \$100 less in development work. We are making no profits at all, and the tax simply prevents us employing that much more labour, and doing that much more development work, and of course we have that much less money to spend.

MR. A. C. FLUMERFELT—It was not my intention to have had anything to say with respect to these matters before the Convention, because as you know I am not a mining man. My business life has been spent in Victoria, but I have the



Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, Grand Forks, member of Executive Committee, representing Smelting Interests.

honour to be connected to a very large extent in the mining industry of this province, and am interested with you all in connection with the development of our country. With regard to this two per cent. tax, I am glad to see that the Convention has approached the subject in a generous and fair spirit. I am glad to say from my knowledge of the present Government and conversations I have had with them, and with members of the Opposition, that they are also in favour of the abolition of this two per cent. tax. I have the assurance of the Premier, and also the Leader of the Opposition, that they are in favour of some rectification of this change, but they also ask what is to be the substitute for this tax? My answer to that is, and the answer of the miners is, and I honestly am of the same opinion, that they should not tax the mining industry, but they should give a bonus towards the development of the industry. I am speaking now for the Granby Company; we have some 670 men employed, and I will just say a few words on this matter. We are going on as best we can with the development of our mines, and in the "Phenix" we have provided for the enlargement of our smelter, and we

are laying the foundation of one of the largest enterprises of the kind on the Continent. Our directors have already authorized the multiplication of our furnaces, and it is intended that if legislation, transportation and other conditions can be satisfactorily arranged to duplicate our smelter within perhaps the next year. (Applause.) We are at present handling something in the neighbourhood of 200 tons of very low grade ore daily, and we will be in a position to handle from 2,000 to 2,300 tons daily, and if the conditions which I have mentioned can be satisfactorily arranged and adjusted, we expect to handle over 4,000 tons a day. This will mean the employment of 1,200 to 1,500 men—to say nothing of the incidental expenses of using timber and coke, all of which tend to increase the commerce of the Province, and to enrich the whole of the country. I further feel that the tax received from the mining people is not too great a sum for the mines to pay, provided always, that the tax was more equitably adjusted. That is, in my opinion, one of the features that the Government should approach with very great care. If, as



Mr. A. E. Howse, of Nicola, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Commercial interests.

Mr. Kirby has suggested, we were to go to the Government with a substitute for this tax we would be immediately at sea. If, however, the Convention can so frame a resolution which will be satisfactory to the Convention, asking the Government to abolish this tax, and give fair and satisfactory reasons, and we had the assurance of the Government that no other tax will be substituted which will be more difficult to bear in the development of this industry, then, I say, that I am heartily in accord with it. We all know, gentlemen, when this tax was first put upon the statute books, it was intended, in fact it was promised to a gathering of mining men, that it should only be put in force by proclamation. The Finance Minister told me it was impossible for the Government to continue the development of the country, building roads and trails, etc., for the mining people unless this tax were put in force. They all acknowledge the inequity of it, but are utterly at a loss to hunt up a substitute. I hope that the one which will be put as a substitute for this two per cent. tax will not be too injurious to the Government, but one we can all stand by and fight for.

MR. MARSH, of Rossland—As a member of the Rossland delegation, and as we are all very much interested in this two per cent. tax, I desire to say a few words regarding the matter. I think there is a general unanimity of opinion that the tax should be abolished, but the question of a substitute seems to be where everybody hangs fire. The mining industry, as is well known, in the Province of British Columbia, is paying a very much larger portion of the revenue to the Government than any other industry in the Province in proportion to the different other industries engaged. With regard to the substitutes, and there have been a number of them proposed, they all remind me very much of the story I heard some time ago. A gentleman owned a large Newfoundland dog, and the dog was somewhat of a nuisance around the house, and his wife wanted him to dispose of it. One day he came home and told his wife, "Mary, I have sold the dog," and she said, "Did you; what did you get for it?" He says, "\$1,000," and she said "I did not think that you would get very much for it," and he said, "Oh, well, I had to take the dog out in trade," and so she asked him what he got for it, and he told her that he had got in return two bull pups worth \$500 each. (Laughter.) Well, gentlemen, it is needless to say that the substitute was equally as objectionable as the other. As several of the gentlemen here have spoken, and who are in a position to say, that if this tax is removed, they will largely increase their plants at the mine, and they will increase the number of men employed, which will mean that there will be a large increase in the men employed in all the avocations in British Columbia. The railway companies will have to increase their number of men in order to provide for the demand in transportation of this large amount of ore. The merchants will employ more men, and there will be more carpenters employed, and so on, and those employed will be compelled to pay a certain amount of taxes and revenue to the Government, and in that way the Government will get a much larger revenue than they would otherwise receive. In fact, I believe the Government would come out with a much larger revenue if they did not propose any substitute, and be satisfied with what they got in return without a substitute. These gentlemen who have spoken to us we all know are in a position to give us opinions that are positive and substantial, and if their ideas are followed out the Government will have no reason to complain whatever in regard to the proposition we are discussing, and they will have no reason to complain, because they will be getting a substantial increase in their revenue, and they ought therefore to be satisfied with the complete removal of the two per cent. tax.

MR. GILMAN, of Vancouver—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen. With reference to the remarks just stated I have heard it expressed that if this large increase in the number of men, and the increase in commerce take place, as far as the abolition of the two per cent. tax is concerned, the Government will have a much larger revenue by the increase in population, but I contend, gentlemen, the Government will have a larger expenditure in the way of providing schools and all sorts of things resulting from this additional increase in population. At the present time, as you all know, the Provincial Government has not sufficient funds on hand to carry out the great improvements which it could otherwise do if its treasury was well supplied. There is only one substitute which if we all agreed to put it before our Legislature that could keep them up to the mark. As you are aware, the Government of British Columbia is at present contributing to the revenues of the Dominion a very much larger sum than they get back, and if we all get in line as a Convention and try to induce the Dominion Government to give British Columbia a larger share of our profits, then the Provincial Government would have the necessary funds in hand to supplement the very small amount of money they derive from the imposition of this two per cent. tax, and that fund could also be applied to a great many other purposes which will crop out in this Convention, such as a fund to assist the prospector, and where a body of prospectors agree among themselves that they have found a new mineral belt but have not the necessary funds to get into that belt, the Government would be in a position to appoint a number of thoroughly efficient inspectors to go into

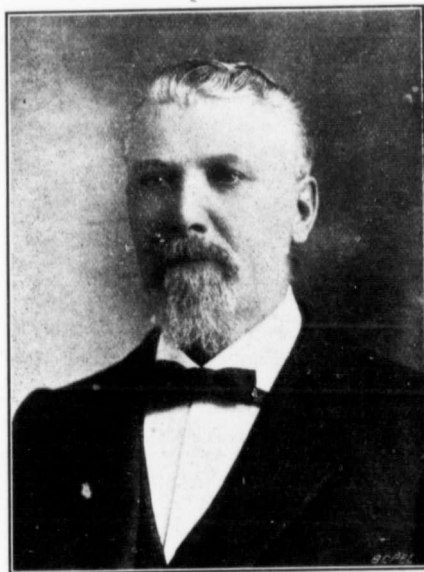
that district, and find out whether the reports of these prospectors are true, and the necessary appropriation should then be made by the Government to put the trails in good condition, and the funds which the Provincial Government may have in hand—if we can get this increase from the Dominion Government—they could be applied to all sorts of things, and would supply a substitute for the very small amount now collected by the two per cent. tax.

Mr. C. H. LUGRIN, of Victoria—It seems to me that the discussion is getting away from the resolution. This Convention is asked to express its opinion in regard to the two per cent. tax. We have been told that it is an unjust tax, and the injustice of it has been clearly demonstrated. We have been told that it has a discouraging effect upon the investment of money, and that has been demonstrated very clearly not only by what has been said to-day, but what we are perfectly familiar with. Then if that is the case, why should this Convention trouble itself to discover some substitute for a tax which is unjust. If it is a bad tax, and we all think it is, let us get rid of it, and when we have gotten rid of it I think we can then trust to the good sense of the Legislature to discover some substitute; but I do not think that a substitute will be found necessary. I believe that if this tax is removed, and the investment of capital is induced to come to this Province, as we have been told that such would come, then the effect upon the country will be such that the resulting revenue will be very much larger indeed than what is now raised by the imposition of this tax. This convention should content itself with the strong expression of opinion as to the merits of this tax.

Mr. J. B. HOBSON—Mr. Chairman and members of the Convention: I can add but little to the remarks and opinions presented by the gentlemen who preceded me; but if you will allow me a few moments I will explain to you how it affects the placer mining industry. We have met objections many times when endeavouring to induce capital to enter the placer mining field, for the simple reason that there is a tax levied upon the gross output of mines. It bears as heavily on the low-grade gravel miner, as it does on the miner of low-grade ores. It is a most objectionable tax, and a most unpopular one to the investor, and I may add it is a most unreasonable one in every respect. To show you what one mine has been taxed in the Cariboo country, I will say that the owners of the placer mine at Bullion expended in its equipment and development work \$1,000,000. It has recovered from the ground \$1,077,000, and the company has not yet received one cent of remuneration for its investment, and does not expect to for another year. Yet we have been heavily taxed through the imposition of the two per cent. royalty, a very unfair and onerous tax on a company which is expending annually large sums of money in equipment and development work. In the year 1900, the Consolidated Cariboo Company of Bullion paid a royalty or tax amounting to \$7,001.70 on a gold product of \$350,085.00 in addition to \$2,137.00 for leasehold rents, \$110.00 for free miners' certificates, \$105.00 for hotel and merchandise license, \$250.00 for stumpage, \$450.00 in poll tax for 150 miners and employees, and \$50.00 income tax of manager, making a total of \$10,003.70 paid as revenue to the Government in one year by one hydraulic mining company in Cariboo. Now, gentlemen, I will ask you if it is fair to tax the gross output of the mining industry or that of any other industry? I ask you if it is fair to tax the gross product of the farm when, for instance, a farmer produces 1,000 tons of oats, and sells them for so much money? Is it fair to tax his gross receipts on sale of oats without first allowing him to deduct the cost of putting in his crop the cost of taking it off and placing it on the market? No, certainly not, gentlemen, and the Government does not tax him thus, but on his net receipts. Then why should the miner—who must ever be considered a public benefactor—be taxed so unfairly? Why should he be cinched instead of encouraged in his efforts to increase the business of others and the mineral wealth of the Province? There is no industry on earth that does more for the public generally than the industry of mining. (Applause.) Let it be iron, coal, lead, copper, gold or any other

class of mining, they all contribute to the wealth and prosperity of the country—I claim it is against public policy to prevent the prospector and explorer from entering and opening up the vast mineral wealth of the Province for development and profitable investment. I believe that one of the most important measures brought before this Convention is the removal of the heavy and unfair two per cent. tax on the gross output of mines. Let every other objectionable feature surrounding the mining laws be removed and the Province will soon populate with energetic explorers, prospectors and legitimate investors who will develop the greatest mining industry in the world. (Applause.) When reading the *Mining and Scientific Press*, I noticed some items that fit our case exactly. They refer to the same system of taxation tried in the State of Colorado.

"There is or should be recognition of basic difference between the taxation of mining property and almost any other kind of real or personal property—not to favour the miner for the miner wants no favour—but justly recognizing exist-



Mr. W. M. Brown, of Revelstoke, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Placer interests.

ing facts. A man has \$100,000 worth of goods in his store; another has \$100,000 machinery plant on his mine. It is manifest that the same general rule should not apply in both cases. It would be just as fair to tax a merchant or manufacturer on every dollar that passed through his hands in a year as to tax a mine owner on the mine's gross production.

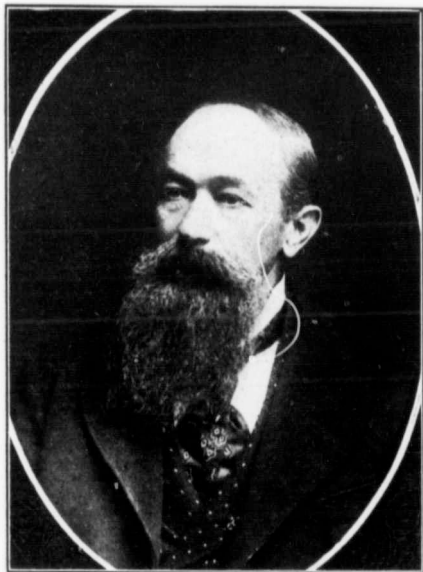
"A man has a \$50,000 farm, eternally reproductive; another has a \$50,000 mine, ephemerically so; the equities are dissimilar. Any system of taxation that tends to limit the number of workable mines is against public policy.

"The matter is of importance to all miners. The intent of these fragmentary remarks is to suggest to newly-elected legislators, who propose introducing laws governing mine taxation in their respective commonwealths next winter, that a degree of caution is necessary and proper understanding of the subject absolutely requisite. The prospector should not be discouraged, the miner should not be frozen out, and the investor should not be unduly deterred from aiding devel-

opment. The working miner is a good customer for everybody and a competitor of no one. He deserves a fair show and that's all he asks."

These conditions appear to fit our case, so I trust that this Convention will adopt the resolution and urge upon the Government the necessity for the abolition of the two per cent. royalty on the gross output of mines.

MR. G. SHELDON WILLIAMS, of Vancouver—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen: Mr. Kirby and Mr. Galt and a few other gentlemen have stated here that it is none of our business to tell the Government what they should do towards remedying this evil. Now, gentlemen, if we tell the Government not to do one thing, we should tell it what it must do. Our business is rather to guide the Government and tell them what is best to do in the country, and this Convention should make an alternative to the two per cent. tax, or suggest to the Government to pass a resolution to take the tax off for from two to five years, and not tax the mines for that length of time; but if we go to the Government and ask them to take the tax



Mr. J. Lehman, of Ashcroft, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Farmers and others.

off and give no alternative we cannot expect that we will receive the satisfaction we desire.

MR. POLLEN, of Fort Steele.—I consider that in taking off this two per cent. tax we should in some way show what is going to take its place. I think the amount paid by Mr. Flumerfelt's company as regards this two per cent. tax was something like \$300. Mining, in my opinion, should not be taxed directly; it must be taxed indirectly, and the mining prospector should be encouraged. On the one hand you do not want to make it bad for the prospector and the Government must have some revenue to make up for the two per cent. tax.

MR. JOHN DEAN, of Rossland—I might say there is one point which these gentlemen seem to appreciate, and that is the fact that in the case of a great deal of the ore raised in many of our mines the tax is levied on ore which does not realize a profit at all. Now, it seems to me that that is a point that should be brought prominently before this Convention. I would also say, in reply to Mr. Gilman, while

he has stated that the cost to the Government would be very materially increased, notwithstanding the fact that the population would be increased, I say that the increase of population would mean a large increase of revenue to the Province over and above the cost of trails, schools, etc., that he makes such a fuss about. I would also point out that in the mining industry you cannot increase the price of the product as you can in other industries. No matter what your cost may be for development work, etc., the cost of the ore still remains the same, and I would specially draw your attention to that point. That is the fact in the initial stage of any mine, the cost of mining is far greater than any revenue you can derive from the sale of your ore. A man may develop a mine by sinking his shaft 200 or 300 feet down, and expend \$50,000, and he may find when he gets to the bottom that the work he has done does not warrant him in proceeding any further. He may have \$20,000 to \$25,000 worth of ore, and he will have to pay a loss of \$30,000 to \$40,000. I think that the repeal of this tax on the production of ore may be looked upon as a special inducement to capital. Whilst we know that we spend vast sums in immigration, I think that by the taking off of this two per cent. tax it might be considered as an indulgence, or it might be considered as a special inducement offered to capital to come here, just exactly as you would offer special inducements to labour by the immigration of a vast population to come into our midst. It seems to me that we have arrived at that point now when we must offer special invitations and inducements to capital to come among us. We have the natural facilities, we have the mines, we have the smelters and the coal and gold, and all the natural properties which offer inducements to capital. (Hear, hear.) The only thing is we do not want to pile them down with taxation so as to make it practically impossible to come in and make money. Mining is one of the most risky ventures. It is one which requires a great deal of coaxing to get capital into, and unless you refer to a small class of diggings it cannot be handled without a considerable amount of capital. We in Rossland have been taught a very severe lesson, and that it is perfectly useless for capital to endeavour to develop a quartz mine under the present conditions which prevail as regards our laws and taxation.

MR. HIRSCHFELD, of Atlin—I wish to state here that I disagree with Mr. Williams. I do not think anyone here would like to see the tax removed for only five years. That is worse than nothing at all. It would take five years to open up a property. What we have come here for to-day is to decide what we are going to do with this two per cent. tax. We all want to get rid of this tax. The tax is unfair, and I am heartily in favour of its removal. The removal of this tax would eventually result in the opening up of a larger amount of properties, the bringing in of increased population, and the revenue received from the increased population would more than make up for any tax which may be derived from the two per cent. tax. That is a hardship on the mining industry. It restricts mining development and confines it to one or two companies which are able to survive the strain. It is the old story of the man who said "A" had to say from "B" to "C" before he got out. Now to get down to facts, it is no good to say that this tax is a bad one, but we must go to work and get rid of it. I think that British Columbia is the only country that taxes a man on what he does not make.

MR. KEFFER, of Greenwood—In speaking of the Boundary country in the last year the Boundary has mined over 100,000 tons of ore, but the average value of that will not exceed \$5 a ton. Out of that we must pay mining expenses and transportation expenses to the smelter and labour, etc., and our profit is on an exceedingly narrow margin. I would say for my own company, the B. C. Copper Co., that we have during the past year smelted \$150,000 of ore, and our taxes have ranged between 15 and 20 per cent. of the profits, and also our company has expended to date about two million dollars in smelters and opening out the mine. I for one would be in favour of the repeal of the two per cent. tax with no substitute in its place. I think with the other gentlemen that the

building up of the country and the increase in population will far more than offset this two per cent. tax.

MAYOR BURRELL, of Grand Forks—Mr. Chairman, In speaking on this question I speak not strictly as a mining man, but as one interested in mining. Now, gentlemen, I am representing the ranching industry, and one gentleman has stated that the mining industry is the most important industry we have, but I think, gentlemen, the ranching is more important than any other. It is the most important and always will be. You cannot mine unless you are fed, and I recognize, gentlemen, that the industry of ranching comes first. I also recognize that the ranching industry is inseparably connected with the mining industry, by which we must stand or fall. In the first place, gentlemen, I came here with the opinion that this tax of two per cent. should be altered and not abolished. It is an inequitable tax at the present moment, and I believe, gentlemen, if that two per cent. tax had in the first place been levied on the net profits of the mine there would not have been a word. I do believe, however, and most emphatically believe, that this Convention should propose some substitute. It is all very well for you to say that the mining industry should not bear this tax. You say it is an unjust tax, and that is what you are kicking about, but what Government on the face of the earth will stand your taking off a tax such as this and offering no substitute in return. We are going to them, and say to them—"Here, abolish this tax, which amounts to something like \$125,000, and substitute nothing." Mr. Galt has spoken on this question to this magnificent meeting, and says that we should not give the Government a little guidance. I say, gentlemen, I think it is our business to give them some guidance in this matter. You go to the Government on one hand and say, "We want money for roads and trails." We have, I say, in the North Forks and around Kettle River, one of the best countries on the face of this earth, and you will go to the Government and say on the one hand, "We want money for roads and trails, etc.," and what will you do on the other side? You will ask them to take off this \$125,000. The Government will say to you, "You come here and rob us of \$125,000, and on the other hand you want us to give you \$30,000 to \$45,000 more for the development of your country. I think that pressure should be brought to bear on the Dominion Government. Let us get more of the money and a larger share of the profits that we contribute to the Dominion Government. It is certainly the only way our Provincial Government can afford to take off this taxation, and these funds should be secured by our Government, and I consider that is the best way of our dealing with this question. Let pressure be brought to bear on the Dominion Government to get a larger share of our profits that we now give to them annually, and that is the best and only way to remedy this evil with which we are dealing, namely, the two per cent tax.

MR. WOLFENDEN, of Armstrong—I represent also the farming industry, and I think, gentlemen, if we go to the Government and ask them to take off this two per cent. tax we should offer some substitute to the Government. We do not want the Government to put on a tax which is more unfair, and if we go to them as a body representing the mining industry, and show them what is best for the country, I have no doubt that they will meet our wishes if we are prepared to act fairly with them.

CAPT. CLIVE PHILLIPPS-WOLLEY, of Saanich—I am also a farmer, sir, and I would like to point out that I was asked to take some part in this Convention, and I may say that the people in Saanich are composed chiefly of farmers. Now, you asked the farmers to come into your Association and lend you their hand, and they are very willing to do so provided you make it clear to the farmer that the burdensome taxation which you want removed is not going to fall upon the poor farmer's shoulders. They say, perhaps, that you are like the spider who asks you to come into his parlor so that he may suck you dry. Now, gentlemen, that is not what we want, and I have advised my section of the country to come into your association and assist you, but as I say, in the

first place they want to see that they are not going to suffer in consequence. It is a matter of self interest with them. You have given as your reason for the removal of this tax that the population of British Columbia will be so largely increased that revenue will be provided by means of this increased population, and as long as you can prove to us that this tax is not going to be followed by a tax on the farmer we shall be exceedingly anxious to help you by all the means in our power. You say that the mining industry as it stands at the present time does not pay; but, gentlemen, the mining industry is not the only industry that does not pay, for I do not know of many who are bothered with a farm which pays. I have heard of mines which pay, and have been in mines which pay, for I am as much a miner really as I am a farmer, but I do not know of a farm that pays at the present time, and we could not afford an individual taxation put upon



Mr. A. J. Goodell, of Boundary Falls, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Smelting interests.

us. I would suggest when you go to the Government and say to them, "Take off this \$125,000 tax," you should give them some suggestion as to how this money is to be raised, otherwise they will say, "Well, the miners are kicking like blazes, and they are a very intelligent lot; we must not offend them, but there are the old hay-seeds, they never open their mouths; let us put the tax upon them for they will never say anything about it."

MR. DEAN—As the mover of the resolution it has been suggested that the words "low grade" should be struck out of the resolution. The resolution as originally moved is this—"That the Government and Legislature of the Province of British Columbia be respectfully urged to abolish the so-called two per cent. mineral tax upon the output of mines because of its injurious effect in depressing the mining of low-grade ores, and because of its effect in discouraging the in-

vestment of outside capital." That is the resolution, and it has been moved that the words "low grade" be struck out.

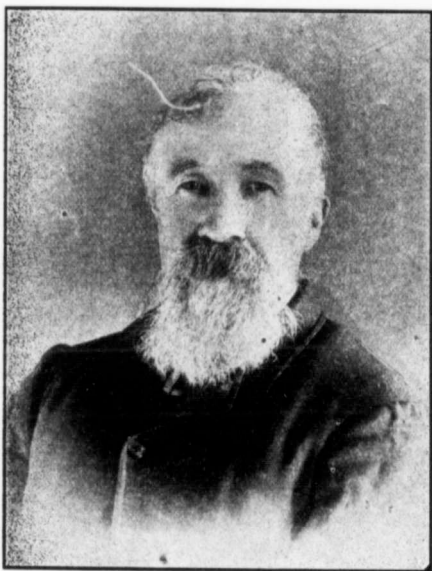
MR. DREWRY—I move that the motion be reconsidered, and the words low-grade be struck out.

Mr. Gaunce seconded the motion, which was carried.

MR. SCOTT, of Revelstoke—I rise to a point of order. All the resolution should be put in writing.

MR. HIRSCHFELD—The idea of this amendment is that the two per cent. tax shall be taken off of all mining, and it is merely a question of language in the resolution which is very easily arrived at by not referring to low-grade ores or placer mining. Leave that out, and I think we will then all get what we want.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I will read the resolution as amended: "That the Government and Legislature of the Province of British Columbia be respectfully urged to abolish the so-called two per cent. mineral tax upon the output of mines,



Mr. Robert Borland, of 150 Mile House, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Farming.

because of its injurious effect in depressing mining, and because of its effect in discouraging the investment of outside capital."

DR. SINCLAIR—That resolution covers everything. It covers what Mr. Hobson said, and is a complete resolution.

The motion was then adopted.

Adjourned till 3:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session, 3:00 p.m.
THE SILVER-LEAD QUESTION.

MR. CHAIRMAN—On the slip of unfinished business is another resolution from the Resolutions Committee relating to the silver-lead industry. Perhaps it would be well to read it all. It is as follows:

That this Convention assembled at Victoria, heartily endorse the resolutions passed by the silver-lead miners at Sand-

don on the 10th December, 1902, and that a copy of this resolution be telegraphed to the Dominion Ministers at Ottawa.

At a meeting of the silver-lead mine owners of East and West Kootenay, held at Sandon, British Columbia, on December 10, 1902, the following resolution was presented by J. L. Parker, and carried unanimously:

RESOLUTION.

1. Whereas, The silver-lead industry of British Columbia, notwithstanding the usual richness of the ore, the proved continuity of the veins, and the favourable natural conditions of mining in the Province, is, and for some time has been, in a declining condition, which, if not ameliorated, will result in total stagnation. And

2. Whereas, The lead-mining camps of the United States, and peculiarly those in the adjoining State of Idaho, are, and for years have been, enjoying great prosperity, due to a protective tariff conserving the home market. And

3. Whereas, The silver-lead mining industry has been for years of national importance, and, unless allowed to decline, will speedily attain to a much greater degree of importance, benefiting by its increasing expenditures the trade and advancement of both Eastern and Western Canada. And

4. Whereas, Our domestic market for the manufactured products of lead is chiefly supplied from the products of ores mined in Mexico and Europe, where the labour cost of production is much lower than in this country; a condition of affairs permitted by the wholly inadequate protection afforded by the existing tariff; while the prices of white lead, lead pipe, sheet lead, and shot, in the Dominion of Canada, are approximately equal to the prices charged for the same commodities in the United States, all to the detriment of the producers, consumers and transporters of lead in this country. And

5. Whereas, Under the existing tariff, little or no protection is afforded to the lead producing industries; whilst adequate protection is afforded to all other industries of equal importance, known to us. And

6. Whereas, These conditions result in the exportation of a preponderance of our crude ore and bullion, the former to American smelters and the latter to the markets of the world; there to enter into competition with the products of cheap European and Mexican labour, and the surplus product of the protected lead industry of the United States.

7. Therefore, We, the silver-lead miners of the East and West Kootenay districts of British Columbia in convention assembled, do hereby recommend and respectfully urge the enactment of a Tariff Act which will afford ample protection to the producers, manufacturers and transporters of lead, thereby creating and fostering a new and expansive home industry calculated to benefit all classes by the stimulation of national trade and commerce.

Having in view the interests of the producers, manufacturers and consumers of lead, we would recommend a duty equal to that imposed by the United States, viz.:

On lead in ores, 1½ cents per pound.

On lead in bullion, pigs, bars, and old lead, 21-8 cents per pound.

On lead in sheets, pipe, shot, etc., 2½ cents per pound.

On white lead, etc., 27-8 cents per pound.

On all other products of lead as provided in the Dingley Tariff Act of July 24, 1897.

Provided, always, that if at any time it shall be proved that a combination has been formed for the purpose of unduly increasing the charges made for smelting lead ores produced in Canada, or for refining or marketing lead bullion, or if charges for smelting and refining in Canada are proved exorbitant, then the Governor-General in Council may at his discretion permit the admission into Canada of lead bullion smelted and refined, or smelted or refined in foreign countries,

from Canadian lead ores, upon payment of an ad valorem duty of 15 per cent upon the cost of such smelting and refining.

8. And the Secretary is hereby instructed to forward copies of the foregoing resolution to the Senators and Members of the Dominion Parliament, representing British Columbia, with the request that they present the same to the Federal Government as a memorial with their endorsement.

LOUIS PRATT,

Secretary Silver-Lead Mine Owners' Meeting held at Sandon, B.C., December 10th, 1902.

MR. CHAIRMAN—That, gentlemen, is the resolution passed at Sandon, and I am about to ask you whether you concur in the same.

MR. THOS. DUNN, of Vancouver—I have very much pleasure in moving this resolution in connection with the silver-lead mining industry of this country. In moving such I wish to state that I have had some experience in the upper country in regard to the silver-lead market, although at the present time I am a Mainlander. The matter has been brought up and threshed out by the silver and lead mine owners of the upper country, and I am sure they are a great deal better able to deal with the matter than a great many of us are here. We have heard that the people in Rosland deal ably with the refractory ore question. I am glad to hear that this resolution, dated December 10th, 1902, was passed at Sandon, and I now beg to move that a copy of this resolution be telegraphed to the Dominion Ministry at Ottawa.

MR. HOBSON—I second Mr. Dunn's motion. I am a firm believer in protecting the lead or any other industry of this Province. I would go further than the resolution, and would ask that a duty be placed on any manufactured article that contained lead. I would place a duty on the cans that contain fruit, which are soldered with an alloy of lead and tin. I will go to any extent, gentlemen, to protect the mineral industry of this country. I am heartily in accord with the resolution, and hope the resolution will be adopted and wired to the Ministry at Ottawa.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It has been moved and seconded that a copy of this resolution be telegraphed to the Dominion Ministers at Ottawa. Motion carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It has also been moved and seconded that the delegates of the quartz and the placer mining industries meet in different rooms and settle among themselves the questions which affect these industries, and to-morrow afternoon they meet in session together and previously selected delegates will present the decisions arrived at. Further, that the business of the Convention will be expedited by this arrangement. Mr. Belyea wishes me to state that the Committee on Resolutions is entirely inadequate to handle all the resolutions. They have at present forty resolutions to deal with, and he asks that all matters relating to placer and also to quartz mining with which they are flooded be handed into these different committees.

MR. BELYEA—The committee is a fairly large one, but if this Convention is to wait until this committee sorts out all that data, it will be a long time. I therefore ask that this be divided into a quartz and placer mining committee and let them get together separately, and thresh out all the matters relating to that particular industry, and then come back into a committee of the whole.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS, of Vancouver—I have very much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

MR. FULLERTON, of Victoria—I would like to ask if they consider that the committees are necessary to do the work of this Convention. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, I consider there should be some one appointed to look after the capital and labour question.

MR. CHAIRMAN—What I understand you to mean, Mr. Fullerton, is this—In addition to the committee taking care of the

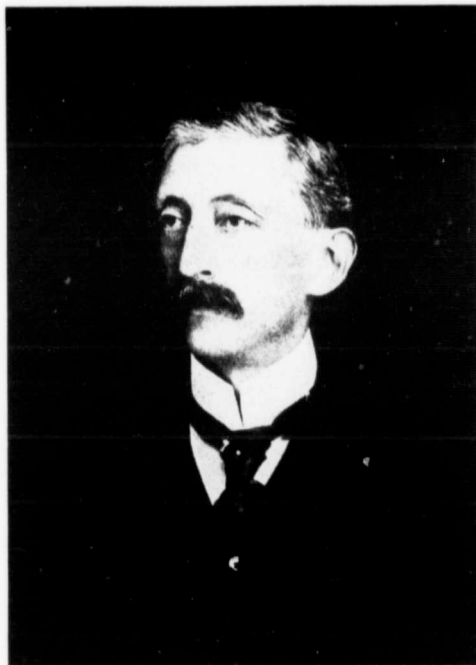
placer mining there should be a distinct committee dealing with capital and labour.

MR. FULLERTON—There has been a resolution submitted to the committee dealing with that question, and asking for the committee to go into it. Now, I think a question of that nature should be dealt with in committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I make this suggestion, that the whole matter can be gotten over if you nominate a committee to take up all matters relating to placer mining.

MR. GALT—I would move that the Chairman of this Convention nominate a committee of five gentlemen engaged in the placer mining industry to deal with this question.

Dr. Sinclair seconded the motion.



Mr. Henry Croft, of Victoria, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Quartz interests.

MR. ADAMS, of Soda Creek—I think it would be much better, Mr. Chairman, if there was a general meeting of those delegates that have come from placer mining districts, and if they had a meeting first and discussed matters, they would then have something to go on. They would have a general idea of what the placer people want in the different parts of the Province.

The question was then put and motion carried.

The following gentlemen were appointed to act on the Placer Mining Committee: Messrs. Hobson, Dunn, Hopp, Moore and Loveridge.

MR. SCOTT, of Revelstoke—I would suggest that as Revelstoke is a placer mining centre, it should not be left out of that committee.

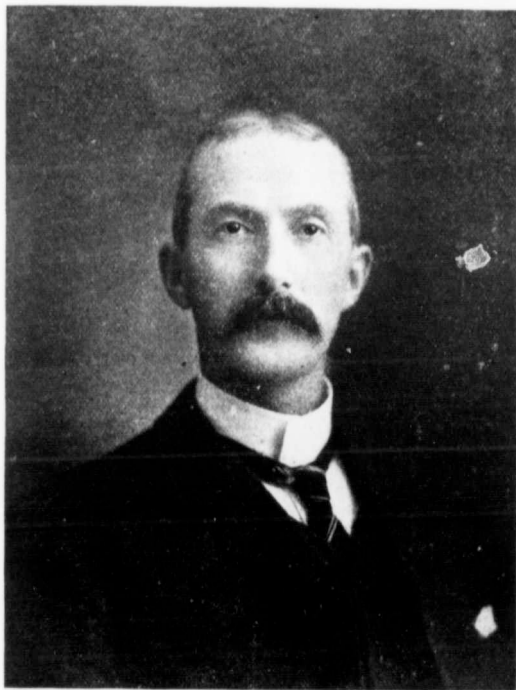
A. ST. G. HAMMERSLEY, of Vancouver—There are a number of gentlemen here representing the placer mining industry and if they appoint a committee, or if they stand by the com-

mittee which has been nominated, the whole of those interested in the placer mining industry should express the views and opinions of that committee.

THE MINING INDUSTRY AND TAXATION.

Moved by Mr. S. S. Taylor, and seconded by Capt. Wolley: Resolved, That with respect to the resolution passed this morning dealing with the abolition of the two per cent. tax, this Convention will not be opposed to an equitable and fair taxation on the mining industry.

MR. TAYLOR—There is no use, Mr. Chairman, because we happen to be miners and pass a resolution which is going to be of benefit to us, that we should think it is going to meet the approval of everyone in British Columbia. I do not believe there is a man here who owns valuable mining pro-



Mr. J. J. Campbell, of Nelson, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Smelting interests.

perty who is not perfectly willing to bear a fair share of the taxation of this Province, and if public money is spent in assisting him to carry out the development of the mining industry I am sure he will bear a fair share of the taxation to provide money for that expenditure. It does seem to me to be wholly inconsistent for one man to get up and say, "My mine is worth so many thousand dollars," and then on the other hand to get up and say, "Abolish this legislation dealing with taxes, for we cannot afford to pay taxes." It does seem to me to be so very inconsistent, and if we are going to bring a proposition like that before the Legislature of British Columbia it means that we are asking something unreasonable, and something which will not be acceded to. (Cries of "No, no.") I would like to ask the gentleman who cries "No, no," to explain why one particular industry in this Province should not bear a certain amount of taxation. If his mine is worth \$500,000, then it is worth something for taxation. I think that is only fair, and I put this resolution forward for the purpose of getting a resolution from this

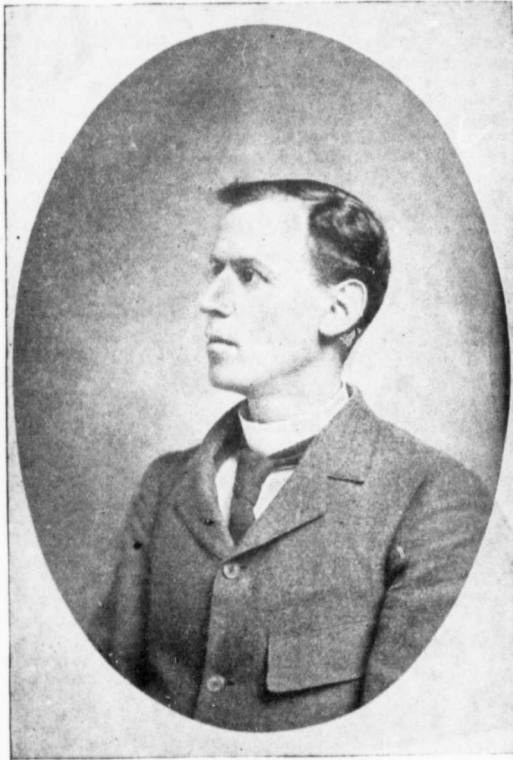
Convention which will appear reasonable to the Legislature when we go before them, and which will secure the carrying out of our wishes. The resolution which has been passed I heartily concur in. It simply means that the two per cent. tax is unjust, and if we ask to have it removed it is not our business to suggest other modes to be substituted, but at the same time we must leave ourselves in the position of saying there will be no taxation at all. We should make provision in this resolution and say that we will bear a fair and equitable taxation in this Province on our mining industry, and I hope, gentlemen, that this resolution will meet with your support. I have talked with a great many members of this Convention, and they have expressed themselves heartily in favour of it. I make this resolution in order to show clearly that we are not trying to escape fair taxation. We have all heard of the fear of the farmer that this taxation shall be borne by him if taken off our mining industry, and it is agreed by all sensible men that we must have legislation which will not bear unduly on any other industry. Now, I would like for a moment to call your attention to the resolution passed this morning, and as you will see it simply abolishes the taxes. It says in the Statute that it shall be a substitution for the real estate and personal property tax. Have you not put in its place a tax on machinery and perhaps a real property tax? Gentlemen, you have left it open beyond all question for the Government to put a taxation on machinery and on the personal property of the mine; whereas it might be said at the present time there is no taxation applying to the mine itself or to the mine owners. I think it should be understood by the Legislature that we as mining men are not attempting to escape a fair share of the taxation of this Province.

CAPT. CLIVE PHILLIPS-WOLLEY—I am seconding this resolution, because I do not wish to see the Association by any neglect misrepresent itself, and it seems to me that if this resolution is not adopted we shall be in danger of misrepresenting ourselves to the people, because as I understand the resolution which was adopted this morning, it was one merely against the imposition of an unjust tax, but not against taxation altogether. Now, gentlemen, if you attempt to take all the taxation off the mining industry you will create a privileged class, against which the whole of the Province will rebel. There was a doubt in the mind of the farmer when he was asked down to your Convention, as I have stated before, and while they believed you were in earnest and were anxious to give you their support, yet at the same time they felt and were afraid that the taxation shifted from your shoulders would fall on theirs. The mining proposition of British Columbia is a very great one, but then you are not so large when compared to the other industries in the community. There is no question but that you represent the wealth—and very largely—of this place, but then look at the farming industry, and see what it represents. Take the district of Saanich alone, and you will find that the majority of that district is composed of farmers. I do not think it will be difficult for you to make the farmers understand that you are working in their interest by protecting your mines and increasing the population, thereby creating a demand for the products they produce, but at the same time if you want the support of the farmer you want to make it clear to him that you don't want an unjust tax, but that you are prepared to bear with him a fair taxation.

DR. SINCLAIR—The resolution passed this morning unanimously, and the people who are discussing it now should have threshed it out then, and it is utterly unreasonable after the matter has been threshed out and thoroughly understood to bring it up again at this late hour. I am prepared to say that the mining people of this Province, mine owners and everybody, are interested in mines in this Province, and they are sufficiently intelligent and sufficiently generous to do justice to every man in the community, and there is not a farmer in this Province who will be unfairly treated. We are here for the purpose of carrying out a mutually important duty in connection with the best interests of the Province. There is no reason to be afraid that one class is going to be treated better than another. I am satisfied that this Association is

going to last—(Hear, hear)—and if there is any measure brought in by the Government to tax the farmer unfairly then we will at once come down on the Government. We are here for that purpose. Besides that, it is the duty of the Government to aid industries such as the mining industry which is in its infancy. I reiterate that it is the duty of the Government to aid us until we are on our feet. It is the duty of the farmer, of every man who has an interest in the Province to do something for the mining industry. When they are doing that they are doing it for themselves.

Mr. Chariman reads: Moved by Mr. S. S. Taylor, seconded by Capt. Clive Phillipps-Wooley—Resolved, That with respect to the resolution passed this morning dealing with the abolition of the two per cent. tax, this Convention shall not be understood as being opposed to an equitable and fair taxation on the mining industry.



Mr. F. Keffer, of Anaconda, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Quartz interests.

MAYOR BURRELL, of Grand Forks—Mr. Chairman, I am heartily in accord with the gentleman who moved that resolution. With all deference to Dr. Sinclair I believe he is in the wrong. I regard it as the most important function that this Convention has to perform, and it is to be shown that we have come here to stay, and for us to do that it to treat all interests alike. I have come here from Grand Forks to represent the mining industry of this Province, and although we may wish to abolish the tax, none of us wish to evade a fair, equitable and just taxation.

MR. D. W. HIGGINS, of Victoria—I felt that in having voted for the resolution this morning I represented what as far I could see was the public opinion of Victoria. I believe it is an admirable resolution, and I believe it is an admirable ob-

ject to have in view the encouragement of the mining industry of this country. At the same time, gentlemen, I say that there is no man connected with the mining industry of this country who would refuse to bear a fair share of an equitable taxation on the mining industry. In order to meet the demands of this country a great expenditure of money will be necessary, and the whole burden should not be thrown upon the shoulders of the manufacturers and the farmers of this country, but the mining industry should be willing to contribute its share towards the development of the country, the building of roads, and the furnishing of railway facilities to reach their properties. During all my dealings with mining men on this Coast, for the last fifty years, I have never found them unwilling to contribute towards the public revenue. In fact, gentlemen, I believe they are the best and most cheerful tax payers we have in this country. (Hear, hear.) But, gentlemen, I consider that this resolution this morning required something like this to supplement it. I have had no conversation with Mr. Taylor, but it has been running in my mind ever since that I should suggest to some mining man a resolution on that line, and I am willing to give my support to that, and I may say this, that although I represent the City of Victoria, and am proud to say it, we are fast changing our character and are fast becoming a mining centre. Not only will we be a commercial centre, but we will also be a centre where mining men will come and discuss arrangements for the carrying out of their enterprises. We have right near us some very rich mines, and we are so fortunately situated that the widest part of our Island is not more than forty-five miles, and we can reach the richest deposits of ore without spending millions in building railways. But, gentlemen, that is aside from the question. I say here that the voice of Victoria, as represented by these delegates, will be with you in the expression of a desire to be equitably and justly taxed. If it is only the question of the two per cent. tax upon the industry which has caused investors to shrink from investing in the country, all we have to do is to show those people that they can, by a reasonable expenditure of money, derive an income or profit from their industry, and if they have raised an objection to the two per cent. tax and say it is impossible for them to invest in this country, I say the best way to overcome their scruples is to abolish that tax. I cannot imagine any legislator who will refuse to listen to an association such as this. It is only right we should protect all interests, and I will give my vote to this resolution and I hope that all the other members of the delegation of Victoria will give theirs also.

MR. GALT, of Rossland—I would just like to say by way of explanation, any gentlemen that I know of as far as the repeal of this tax is concerned, never dreamt for one moment that the mining industry or any mine owner should be exempt from taxation. The view we have taken, and a fair view of it is, the mining industry returns such a revenue to the Province, far in excess of that of any other industry; even if you repeal this two per cent. tax we are still paying indirectly and directly an enormous taxation to the Province. Now the way it comes about is this. It would not perhaps strike one off hand how that works out, but I will give you an instance of this in Rossland. There we have a population of 5,000 or 6,000 people. They all pay their taxes, and are entirely dependent upon the mines. They have to be remunerated by three or four mining companies, and they are given enough money in addition to their ordinary wages to pay this tax, so that in reality the few mines in that neighbourhood pay all the taxes of that community—quite apart from the two per cent. tax altogether, but there is no sort of feeling, I am quite sure, were this tax to be repealed that they would thereby escape from taxation altogether. If anyone would take the trouble to look through the receipts of this Province from the mining industry they will find out what an enormous revenue is received, quite apart from the comparatively small sum that is recovered under the two per cent. tax. Speaking for my own part, I am quite sure that I am speaking for a great many people who are managing or holding mines, that while we feel that it is quite right to repeal the two per cent. tax, and it is quite possible for some one

else to introduce some other form of taxation which will not bear upon the mining industry too heavily, still we feel if there is no substitute made for it the mine owners of this Province are paying a very high taxation. They would not be what one gentleman has expressed it—an isolated or a privileged class by any means, because it is by the returns from these mines and the prospectors generally, that all the different contributions are made to the revenues of this Province. I just wish merely to say that the miners and mine owners I am acquainted with cannot be placed in any privileged class, and they would not be so placed if this tax was repealed.

The question was then put and the motion carried.

MR. HAGGAN, of Revelstoke—I beg to propose this resolution: "That it is desirable in view of the great and increasing importance of the mining industry in Canada, that a separate portfolio of mines be established at Ottawa, in order to assist in promoting the development of the mineral resources of the Dominion, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and members of the Senate and Commons, representing this Province, with the request that they give their support to this proposal."

In support of this proposal, I need hardly remind you that some four or five years ago there was a very strong agitation throughout this Province in this regard, but it has died out completely, and I think that this being one of the most important industries in the country to-day it should be represented at Ottawa. I therefore ask you to support that resolution.

Seconded by Mr. Higgins.

MR. LUGRIN—I move that the consideration of this resolution be deferred until to-morrow afternoon.

MR. SMITH, of Duncans, seconded and motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Smith Curtis, seconded by Mr. F. W. Rolt—That in the event of the repeal of the two per cent. mineral tax this Convention suggests and endorses as a proper basis for the taxation of working mines that a fair tax be levied upon the profits or dividends paid to the owners of such mines.

MR. SMITH CURTIS—Mr. Chairman, while I agree with the motion which has been already carried which says we do not object to a fair taxation upon the mines, and while I agree with Mr. Taylor's views on this resolution, yet at the same time I feel sure that the Legislature would like us to indicate what we thought was a fair way of imposing a tax in substitution of the two per cent. tax. If we do suggest a really fair basis, and the Legislature repeals the two per cent. tax and enacts some other tax in place of it which is not fair or reasonable, they cannot say that they did not get the advice of this Convention, assuming that this proposal of mine is carried. Allow me for a moment to explain why I made that resolution. If you have a tax which is based upon the net profit made upon each and every ton of ore that goes out of the mine, it may be, in the first history of the mine you are really taxing capital. When a profit is made on a mine, it is distributed in dividends or returned into the mine, but as a rule it is returned into the mine for the purpose of further development, and it is the same as though you borrowed that money in the Old Country and brought it here and put it into the mines. What gentleman would care if we borrowed five or any other per cent. of the capital outside of our Province and put it into our mines? Yet, on the other hand, if a man takes the profit which he makes on his ore and puts it back into the mine, why does he do it? Because he believes that in the future he is going to make more out of the mine, and if he makes more out of it then the Government by putting a tax on the net profits will make more out of it, and the Government will get more out of the mineral tax that way than they will in any other way. If the miner is going to make more, then the Government is going to make more. Now, gentlemen, I want to point out what I consider to be a proper principle of taxation, not only on mines but other industries. It has been suggested by some of the gentlemen

here that if we abolish this two per cent tax the Government will be short of money. Not at all. We have in the south-east area of this Province large deposits of coal and petroleum. This has been in reserve by the Government of British Columbia for the past twelve or thirteen years, but if that reserve was taken off, it is safe to say through the development of the coal and petroleum and the sale of the same this Province would be receiving out of the natural resources of this Province—out of the God-given resources of this Province—at least \$500,000 a year. Now, we must get back to that principle of taxing the natural resources of this Province. Let us apply that principle to the mine. You have a large number of mines developed, some pay and some don't. Look at those which pay dividends; they don't pay it out of the capital which has gone into the mine, but they pay it out of the rich mineral which is in the mine, and if they distribute those dividends and profits among themselves you can readily see that they are making these profits out of the earth and out of the ground, and by this method of taxation the Government of this Province reserves to itself the right to have a share of those profits. Now, gentlemen, is not that a correct principle? and while I was scoffed out a minute ago, I have found this way of being heard in this Convention. I thank you, gentlemen, for your attention, and will thank you a thousand times more if you will vote for the principle of that motion.

Motion carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—A suggestion has been made that the placer mining committee get to work at once. Any gentleman interested in placer mining is requested to meet the committee and discuss matters with them.

MR. ROLT, of Rossland—When this question was first brought before this meeting I understood a suggestion was made that the labours of the Resolutions Committee should be lightened by having a special sub-committee formed to attend to the placer resolutions, and another committee was to be formed to attend to the quartz industry. We have attended to the first part of that, having formed a special placer sub-committee, but we have not attended to the latter part of it by forming a quartz committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The Committee on Resolutions said that if the house would appoint a committee to take care of all resolutions relating to placer mining, they would be able to get through very nicely and keep us well employed.

Moved by Mr. Bolden and seconded by Mr. Hammersley, That a committee of ten be appointed to consider the best means of settling the disputes between capital and labour and report.

MR. GALT—Before that question comes up I would like to explain to the Chair and to the Convention that it is quite possible and very probable that some questions of that nature will come up for discussion when we are considering the Constitution, and I would suggest therefore that this resolution be handed into the Committee on Constitution and By-laws, as it may have some bearing on the subject.

Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Chairman appoint the committee, and it was suggested by one of the delegates that the committee be divided into two sections, a committee of five representing capital, and a committee of the same number representing labour, which suggestion was followed.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The names are as follows: For labour—Messrs. Bolden, Brittain, Duke, McAndrews, Chris Foley. For Capital—Messrs. Drewry, Tonkin, Brownlee, Gaunce and Hammersley. I urge upon you, gentlemen, that all those who are interested in your proceedings be invited to co-operate with you, and I would advise you to get together and have a heart-to-heart talk. You will do more to minimize the chances of strikes than all the rest of the men in British Columbia could do. If you do your work well you will go down to posterity as loved men. If you do it badly, the Lord help you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN—A resolution has been placed in my hands—it is this: Moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. McMillan, that a committee of practical quartz miners be appointed to deal with the questions relating to quartz mining, and to report to this Convention.

Motion carried.

Mr. FRANK RICHARDS—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen. You have appointed a committee to deal with placer mining, and I think you have only half done your work. I spoke to Mr. Hobson, and he thought there was too much to do for one committee and it was with his consent that this motion was put.

Mr. SMITH CURTIS—Do I understand that the motion is carried, and that the ten you nominate will be the parties to attend to this committee?

Mr. CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Moved and seconded that the gentlemen to form the quartz committee be nominated by the delegates representing the quartz mining districts. Carried.

Mr. GALT—I understood the chairman of the Resolution Committee to state that if a committee were appointed to look after the placer mining part of it the Resolution Committee could take charge of all the rest.

Mr. GAUNCE—I move that this motion be rescinded, because it is quite possible that every resolution for the quartz miners will be examined by the different committees and we will hear from them to-morrow morning, before forming a new and larger committee, and it will save us the trouble of preparing resolutions.

Mr. Taylor seconded and the motion was rescinded.

THE CENTRAL CANADA CHAMBER OF MINES.

Mr. D. W. HIGGINS—I would like to call your attention to a gentleman who is representing the Winnipeg Chamber of Mines. I would like if the gentleman could be called upon to say a few words. It would be quite an advantage to us to have the pleasure of listening to him.

Mr. MALCOLM—Although not of yourselves I have come from a very considerable distance, having been for many years assistant secretary to the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg, South Africa, and for the last two years I was secretary also of the Central Canada Chamber of Mines. I have no doubt you have all heard of that institution. It is one of the most important institutions on this continent, combining as it does a very large number of the most prominent people in Canada. I may tell you that Lord Minto is the president. Nearly all the banks in Canada are members, and many of the merchants in the East, and quite a large number of prominent people. Now, a Chamber of Mines properly organized is a very important institution, and is a great power throughout that district or country wherever it happens to be organized. I may tell you that the institution of the Chamber of Mines of Johannesburg, which was also adopted with certain modifications to suit the case by the Central Chamber of Mines has the confidence of the stock exchanges of London, Paris and the East. The Chamber of Mines has statistical issues not less than monthly, and these statistics give an able account of the minerals and various other matters connected with the Province. It is a matter which requires very careful consideration, and the statistics issued by the Central Canada Chamber of Mines, as well as the Chamber of Mines in South Africa are received without question by the financial centres of the world, and without some recognized literature of the kind emanating from a responsible source such as this, it is almost impossible to cause a flow of capital and population to the extent that is justified by the mineral resources of British Columbia. In attending this meeting I attended the same as having no local standing, but you have dwelt upon the fact of the two per cent. mining tax. I will give you an illustration of what this tax means. Up to the year 1895 there was no tax levied upon the mineral resources in the South

African Republic. In that year a ten per cent. tax was imposed. Up to that time the revenue derived through the mining industry represented so many millions of pounds sterling annually. When the ten per cent. tax was imposed the result was that all the low-grade mines ceased work. Instead of increasing the revenue, while it increased the revenue from the mining industry to about one million and three-quarter pounds per annum it had the effect of lowering the general revenue of the country by no less than four and a quarter millions per annum, and that had been progressive since the year 1895 up to the outbreak of the war, so you can see that the effect of a tax on the mineral resources of the country is to discourage mining, and it also has the effect of causing a decrease in the population of 30,000, and it reduced the population of Johannesburg 60 per cent. It also had the effect of lowering the revenue from other sources. I do not know that I will take any more of your time. I have letters from Messrs. Fara & Vite, stating that they would be pleased to devote some attention to the mining industry in this country, but that they did not deem it advisable to do so just at present as your organization was not properly organized and until it was properly organized, and recognized as one of the principal institutions, and until your mining laws as on a sound, reasonable footing, they could find plenty of scope in South Africa for investment.

Meeting here adjourned till 11:00 a.m.

27th February, 1903, 11:00 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN—I have a resolution in my hand which has been moved by Mr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Mr. A. Gaunce, that the Convention meet at 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. for the remainder of the session in order to expedite the work before the Convention.

The question was then put and motion carried.

Mr. CHAIRMAN—in order to relieve the Chairman of the Resolution Committee I will ask you to accept his report:—

Resolved, That the collection by the Government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood used by the owner upon mines and mineral claims for mining purposes should be discontinued.

Resolved, That the code signals for mine hoisting be repealed.

That the Boiler Inspection Act is productive of great hardships, and that the Legislature be urged to amend the same as follows:

1. To reduce the present excessive fees so that the same may conform to those prevailing in the other provinces.
2. Conformity with the general practice in other provinces and to accept the certificate of reputable boiler insurance companies.
3. The present rules adopted for calculating the strength and safe working pressures of boilers are unusually and unnecessarily severe, and these rules should be altered to conform to general engineering usage in Canada and the United States.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this convention that the law relating to free miners' certificates should be amended, so their failure to keep up a free miner's certificate shall not work forfeiture of rights acquired under it.

Resolved, That for the purpose of taxation Crown granted mineral claims should be placed in the same position as other mineral claims, and that the exemption from the tax imposed by section 145 of the Mineral Act should be extended to all groups of Crown granted claims, upon any one of which claims the assessment work for the whole group may have been performed.

What will you do with the report. Adopt the report and take the resolutions up afterwards?

The report was adopted.

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The Hon. the Premier is in the room and I would like to know if you desire to hear from him. (Loud applause.)

HON. COL. PRIOR—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: It gives me the very greatest pleasure indeed to be present here to-day, and to find such a representative gathering of British Columbia men. I hear that you are not all mining men, but I do not think that a man needs to own a mine or work in a mine to see that he ought as a British Columbian to take an interest in the mining industry. The mining industry, in my opinion, is the industry of British Columbia, and although at the present time we all know there is a certain degree of depression, still I believe that after this meeting is over, when you gentlemen have brought forward resolutions which you think are for the benefit of the industry, we shall see a tremendous boom in British Columbia. (Loud applause.) Now, gentlemen, I am not going to take up your time to-day as this is a business meeting, and you do not want to hear very much from me, either as Premier of British Columbia or as Minister of Mines, but I may tell you, gentlemen, that myself and colleagues are very glad to see you in Victoria, and to know that such an Association as this is being formed which will put the mining industry on a better footing. You can well understand that a Minister of Mines or any other officer of the Government sometimes finds it very hard to know what to do for the best of any industry, particularly that of the mining industry, as there is, as you all know, a great diversity of opinion, even among mining men themselves as to what is best to do for you. These many years you have divided on a great many questions connected with that industry, but I now hope and trust that after this meeting is over you will be able to tell the Government what you wish them to do to put this industry on a proper footing. I must say I am sorry as a member of the Government that yesterday you saw fit to vote down the resolution which suggested that you would recommend to the Government what you wanted it to do with regard to a substitute for the two per cent. tax.

Voice in audience—No, sir.

HON. COL. PRIOR—I read it that way. Well, gentlemen, you all know those who have been in conversation with me last year on this subject that I have been against the two per cent. tax, and I have stated so publicly on all occasions, as I do not think it is a fair tax or an equitable one—(Applause)—but what is the best thing to do in place of it I am not able to tell you at the present moment. Now, some of you say the Government should evolve a scheme which would give satisfaction to all. Well, gentlemen, if you go away without giving us the benefit of your opinion, I feel sure that you will make a big mistake, for we may bring in legislation which may not suit you, and I think you should give the Government some idea on what lines you think that tax should be put on the industry. You all admit you have to be taxed some way or other. You do not think that the mining industry should be let off and the farmers and merchants, and carpenters, etc., are to be taxed. And I hope in your wisdom—and in a multitude of counsel such as is gathered here there is wisdom—you will make up your minds as to what way you would like this taxation put upon the industry, and let the Government know what your views are before you leave. If you don't, gentlemen, we will see that a more equitable tax is put on. I thank you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, for the privilege of speaking. You do not want any long speech, I know, but I may say here that my Government, my colleagues as well as myself are fully alive to the putting of this mining industry on the best footing possible, and we will be only too glad to have the assistance and advice of such a representative body of men as I see here to-day.

MR. SKINNER—For the benefit of Col. Prior I ask that the Secretary read the resolution of Mr. Taylor passed yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN—"Resolved, That with respect to the resolution passed this morning dealing with the abolition of the

two per cent. tax, this Convention shall not be understood as being opposed to a fair and equitable taxation of the mineral industry." The other resolution is this: "That in the event of the repeal of the two per cent. mineral tax, this Convention suggests and endorses as a proper basis for the taxation of working mines, that a fair tax be levied upon the profits or dividends paid to the owners of such mines."

MR. HIGGINS—Before we settle down to business I would like to announce a couple of changes in the Victoria delegation. N. S. Clarke, of Quatsino has left his proxy in the hands of W. S. Spicer, and Henry Croft's name is proposed for G. H. McGregor's, who left the city last night.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PORTFOLIO OF MINES AT OTTAWA.

MR. HAGGAN, of Revelstoke—I do not intend taking up the time of the Convention, and will simply submit this resolution to you: Moved by myself and seconded by Mr. D. W. Higgins, That it is desirable in view of the great and increasing importance of the mining industry in Canada, that a separate portfolio of mines be established at Ottawa, in order to assist in promoting the development of the mineral resources of the Dominion, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and members of the Senate and Commons, representing this Province, with the request that they give their support to this proposal.

MR. LUGRIN—I asked yesterday for the postponement of this resolution until this morning, not because I was opposed to it, but in common with a good many others I thought it was entitled to a little consideration, and there should be some expression of opinion before the resolution is adopted. For my part, I do not think that the mere passage of these resolutions, without an expression of opinion accompanying them, will accomplish very much good. I think it important before a resolution is passed, there should be some expression of opinion on the part of the members of this Convention as to why they consider an important change such as this necessary. I heartily agree with what Mr. Haggan says in his resolution in which it is alleged that the mining industry is growing to be of very great importance, and I may point out the magnitude of this. It is one which extends from Cape Breton to Vancouver Island, and from the most southerly to the most northerly portion of the Dominion. I do not say for one moment, gentlemen, that the mining industry of Canada will ever be greater than the agricultural industry, but important as it is that Canada should aspire to the position of being a country that feeds the world with her breadstuffs, it is still more important that she should aspire to be in a position where her breadstuffs, with her other foods, will be able to supply the great resources of the country which the world at large will use, and this can be done in no better way than mining. The experience of Canada in the last few years in regard to agriculture shows how much may be done by the Federal department. At the first glance it does not appear to come under the head of Federal matters. It may be that agriculture is not a subject with which the Dominion Government can deal, and I think the same thing will apply with respect to mining, and I feel if the Dominion Government takes up the question of the mining industry it can find many ways in order that the whole policy of the Dominion shall be devoted as far as possible to warrant the development of this very great industry. If you take the case of the Fisheries Department, it may be known to you that when this department was first initiated in 1867, it was done merely for the sake of giving the Hon. Mr. Mitchell something to do. Mr. Mitchell proceeded to make that department what it is to-day, one of the most important in Canada, and I believe the Hon. the Minister of Mines at Ottawa could make mining one of the most important departments of the Federal Government. It is also true that in Sir John Macdonald's time, the principle of establishing a mining bureau was discounted by him, as he thought the geological survey was doing all the work necessary in the interest of that department. That was quite true at the time Sir John A. Macdonald was supposed to express that opinion, but things have changed

since then. We know that the mining industry of this country will take a position only second, if second to that great industry of agriculture, and therefore I think that this Convention should send forward to Ottawa its strongest possible recommendation that such a department should be added to the Federal Government.

DR. SINCLAIR—We are asking the Government something beyond our jurisdiction. We know that when the B. N. A. Act was framed that the whole of that was left in the hands of the Province, and that is where our provincial rights come in, and if the Federal Government should come in and tread upon provincial rights now in this Province, I fancy there is no

impossible for them to come into the Province and interfere with us. We can ask them to give us aid in the way of money, but they cannot interfere with the legislation of the Province. If we had a Minister of Mines, with a portfolio at Ottawa, where could he operate? In the Yukon Territories alone where there is no provincial autonomy, and I do not think that the intelligence of this meeting would expect the Government to establish a bureau of mines in the Yukon Territory only. That is the true condition of affairs. I for one do not wish to stand in the position of asking for something which is unconstitutional, and I oppose the suggestion that this meeting should approach the Government to ask that it



Mr. P. J. Pearson, of Chemainus, a member of the Executive Committee, representing Miners and Prospectors interests.

one who would more quickly bring the Government to task than the gentleman who has just spoken. I maintain if you look over the British North America Act we find that the question of royalties on mines is left entirely in the hands of the Government of the Province. It is all very well for us as an intelligent convention such as we are, representatives from all parts of the Province, to ask something of the Dominion Government which is beyond their power to give, and besides, it is not fair for the Dominion to come in and interfere with the Minister of Mines of this Province. All we ask of the Dominion Government is for them to give us their aid in matters of money or legislation. I say it is

should establish a portfolio of mines where they have no right to establish this. It is on these grounds that I oppose this resolution.

MR. HAGGAN—I would like to hand Dr. Sinclair a copy of the B. N. A. Act, and I defy him to find anything that is adverse to my motion.

The question was then put and carried.

MR. GAUNCE—I move that the resolutions contained in the report of the Resolutions Committee be now taken up serially. Carried.

TIMBER DUES ON MINERAL CLAIMS.

The first resolution was as follows: "Resolved, That the collection by the Government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood cut and used by the owner upon his own mines and mineral claim for mining purposes should be discontinued."

MR. LIVINGSTON, of Duncans—I move an amendment that the word "smelters" be added.

MR. FULLERTON, of Victoria—Does that apply to the coal mining. I think that coal mines on a paying basis should pay some kind of a tax.

CAPT. LIVINGSTON-THOMPSON, of Victoria—With reference to that I would like the mover to explain how he is going to get the revenue that arises out of those cordwood dues. We saw what happened yesterday when Mr. McGregor got up at the beginning of the discussion of the two per cent. tax, and he asked the question what was to be proposed in lieu thereof, and in the morning we promptly voted the abolition of the two per cent. tax, and in the afternoon we practically amended it. Now, it does not do to pass these resolutions in this way without any explanation by the mover and seconder. There is no doubt but that the feeling of this Convention is that the mining industry does not want to escape taxation where such taxation is just, and under those circumstances there are mines in this Province which are run, and they have to pay for coal to run them. Now, it is only just and fair that the Government should get some reasonable revenue out of the timber resources, or the timber that is to be used, and unless the mover and seconder can show some means whereby the taxes can be levied that arise from this other source, I think this motion should not be put.

DR. SINCLAIR—As mover of this resolution I take the position that we are asking something from the Government which is only fair. We are approaching the Government for the purpose of having them relieve us from the taxes that are levied upon timber that goes to the development of the mine upon which that timber grows. I do not hold the opinion that it is my duty or the duty of this Convention to formulate a plan by which the Government can make up the taxes some other way. We would be here eternally if we did that. The Government of this Province is wise and strong enough to find a remedy, and it is in their hands that the whole matter rests. I do not think it is fair for us to state what course they shall take, and for that reason I do not care to discuss it, but I hold it is in the mining interests that all matters of this kind, such as taxation upon timbers that go to the development of the mining property, that there should be no taxation in order to help the mining industry. We are here to aid the mining industry, and that is one way we can do it by framing these resolutions, and so far as making up a plan to help the Government in framing a tax in lieu of the present unjust taxation, it is not our business to do so, but it is their business to find their remedy. We all know that the Province is in a bad shape. I have every sympathy with the Government of this Province, for I know they have great difficulty in finding sufficient resources to meet the expenditures in many directions, yet at the same time, gentlemen, it is our business to ask that we be relieved of a taxation when it tends to keep back the progress and development of our mining industry. (Hear, hear.)

CAPT. CLIVE PHILLIPS-WOLLEY, of Saanich—I rise to say but a few words on this resolution. It seems to me that we settled the question yesterday that the mining industry did not wish to be relieved of taxation, and yet the very first thing I hear of again to-day is another tax to be taken off the mining industry. Now, gentlemen, we know that if this tax is going to be taken off, it is going to be put on to somebody else, and speaking for the farmers, that will not go with them. We were invited to come into this meeting and take part because we were told that a body of intelligent men connected with the mining industry were to be present here, and their idea was to instruct those poor fools of politicians and initiate them into the mysteries of mining; but gentlemen, you don't

send mining men to represent the mining industry in the House, and you have not got mining men in your cabinet, or mining men in the House who understand anything about your requirements. Therefore you say, "Well, we will go down to Victoria and teach them something about it, and every man who has opened his mouth so far has said this: "We will ask these men to take off our tax, but we will not give them any assistance as to what they are to do, or what they are going to get in return." What is the use of our saying, "We want you to take off a great deal of our taxes, and diminish the revenue of this Province, yet, you silly old crows, we will not tell you what to do." It is, gentlemen, I say, not fair to them, and it is not what one would expect from such a strong body of mining men as I see before me to-day.

MR. GALT—The suggestion is made that the people interested in mining, through that resolution, are asking to be relieved of something which at present by law is imposed upon them. The very contrary to that is as I understand it. The position which is taken is that the Government has no right, no legal right whatever, to call upon the owners of mineral claims, which are Crown granted, to pay stumpage dues on timber. That is as I understand it. I did not know that the matter was coming up to-day, or I might have been in a position to quote the sections of the Act. But, gentlemen here is the section of the Mineral Act which relates to the matter—Section 26. (Reads.) It is manifest from that section that the owners of mineral claims and Crown granted claims are not liable to taxation for the timber cut upon their claims at all, and when the Government send their collector round to collect dues for this timber they are simply collecting something to which they have no right whatever. This resolution is formulated merely for the purpose of checking the memory of the Government on the point that they are attempting to collect dues to which they have no right whatever. I do not know that any more can be said on the subject. We all realize the difficulty under which the mine owners are placed. The mine owners read that Act and cut down trees for the purpose of mining, and then the collector comes around and asks for stumpage, and I say, gentlemen, that is a very great injustice, and we are only asking the Government to apply that law which the Legislature in the past has laid down.

MR. EMERY, of Victoria—As I understand the last speaker, the only grievance put forward is that these gentlemen should be relieved from paying a tax, which is illegally levied upon them, but that resolution does not put it that way. It asks to be relieved of dues on any timber. I would therefore ask that that resolution be amended. As I understand the resolution it does not state the timber on those particular claims, and until that is altered I will oppose it, as it is against the interest of the Province that the timber of this Province can be taken off and used for mineral purposes to the extent that that resolution will be allowed to go, but I think it is only practicable and reasonable that any man who owns a mine should be allowed to use the timber on that property. Take the hydraulic miners, for instance. A good deal of that timber will have to be cut down and the timber will lay there and go to waste, and it would be ridiculous to say that that man cannot use it without paying a tax or duty. I say in that case the man should be free of royalty, and in the case of timber on the claim it is often in the road. I will support that resolution if it is altered, so that it clearly sets out that it only applies to the property owned by the mine owner. Otherwise, I think it is against the interest of this Province altogether. This law applying to the collection of royalty on timber is unfair, not only to the miner but to the farmer. A man can take up land in this Province and cut all his timber down and burn it, and pay no tax, but if he gets a company to come in and clear up his land and cut down the timber and thus assist him to clear his farm, he has to pay duty. Now, gentlemen, I think this is a very practical resolution as amended, but otherwise, it is certainly very much against the best interest of this Province.

MR. FLUMERFELT—I would just like to say for the information of Mr. Galt that there is another clause in the old

Land Act which offsets the one which he has just read. Last year I had the pleasure of going into this matter with the Commissioner of Lands and Works with respect to this very matter, and he told me personally he had no authority to abate the tax that was then collected. He demonstrated to my entire satisfaction that according to the law as it stood on the statute books,—the number of the clause I have forgotten—it was imperative that the mine owners using timber on their individual claims were obliged to pay taxes on the cordwood and all the timber cut. You will find this in the same Act. I may say for the gentleman who has just spoken, it applies to timber that is in the way. We cut a great many cords of timber, notwithstanding we were unable to use it, and it would not do to transport it, but notwithstanding this the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands and Works had no option but to force that charge upon us. That bears out that this tax is operative, and the mine owners are entitled to pay it, and if they do not pay it they are not paying the just dues demanded under the Act. I simply illustrate this for the action of the Government in this matter.

MR. GALT—I understand what Mr. Flumerfelt has just stated perfectly, but at the same time the articles that the last speaker has referred to were passed subsequent to the law which has always freed mine owners of this Province from paying any dues on cordwood on their claims. That has been a law which has always prevailed in this country, and if the Legislature has by mistake or inadvertence, or in any other way, introduced another law while that law remains in force, they should certainly repeal the second clause, because the law as it stands, however equitable to the owners of mines and mineral claims, is certainly extinct, notwithstanding any act—which no doubt would indicate the very act which Mr. Flumerfelt refers to—stating that miners and owners of mines and mineral claims are not to be taxed with any taxation of dues with respect to timber got off their mines.

MR. HOIKE, of Ferguson—As I understand this matter, timber dues are collected on Crown granted claims. I cannot see that the Government has any right or title to collect dues on Crown granted claims. It also seems a hardship to gentlemen engaged in mining that they should pay taxes for timber used in their mines, whereas any gentleman can burn up the timber on their property, and in that case they are charged no taxation whatever. They say if we are using the timber and putting it in the mines we should be relieved of that tax. This resolution seems a very reasonable proposition.

MR. McMILLAN, of Rossland—It seems to me perfectly clear that under the terms of that Mineral Act we are not entitled to the use of that timber in the development of our claims. We do feel, and I know we express the sentiments of a very large number of mining men, that it is a hardship to have to pay stumpage on timber which we are using in the development of our claims. These properties, as you know, gentlemen, may never return a cent for the work we are putting in on them, and when there is timber on our claims, and we can make use of that timber in the development of these properties in the hope that we may get a return from our claims, then, I think, gentlemen, we ought to be entitled to that timber. If we burn it down we are charged nothing, and yet when we develop those properties and develop the mining resources of this country, we are charged a stumpage on the timber used in the development of the mine. Our farming friends seem to be under a misapprehension. They seem to have an idea that the miners and mine owners interested in mining in this Province are kicking against paying reasonable taxes. It has been clearly shown that the mining men of this country are not averse to paying any reasonable taxation, but what we have been opposing is unreasonable and unfair taxation which is hindering the development of the mining resources of this country. I would say with regard to the agriculturists of this Province, and perhaps more especially of the Interior, that if it were not for mining there would be no farming at all, and so with the merchants. If we ask that the mining industry should be entirely exempt from charges and taxation for some years to

come, I believe it would be in the interest of agriculture, merchants and others.

MR. TOWNSEND, of Rossland—A man in order to develop his claim must first Crown grant the same, and in regard to the timber, he will have to pay stumpage dues on the same, or if he has the timber taken off his claim he will have none to work with.

MR. J. B. HOBSON, of Bullion—The placer miner under the present laws is not allowed to cut timber from his claim for use in prospecting, developing, or working it in any way without paying timber dues. It is impossible for a placer miner to work his claim by sluicing hydraulicking or other process without first clearing off the timber. There are some 70 acres of timber cut and cleared from the Cariboo Hydraulic mine. To make it possible to carry on washing operations, on the timber thus removed we were not required to pay timber dues, but on timber cut for the purpose of constructing a flume or to make sluice boxes we were charged at the rate of 50 cents a thousand. I think it is unfair, gentlemen, to charge dues on timber cut from mining claims by the owners thereof. We are perfectly willing as placer miners to pay dues on timber cut from land outside our claims. I therefore hope that these dues will be removed.

MR. A. L. BELYEA, of Victoria—This resolution came to the Committee on Resolutions, and certainly neither the committee nor the gentleman who framed it originally meant otherwise than it should apply only to the timber cut from the mineral claim upon which it was used. I think that no other construction should be put upon it now. This same rule will apply to Capt. Wolley. I presume that Capt. Wolley has a farm, and it is Crown granted, and I will suppose that he wants to get some firewood, and he has considerable timber on his farm. Now how would he like it if the Government charged him 50 cents a cord to be allowed to burn it, or on the other hand if he goes to work and cuts down timber for the purpose of erecting buildings, how would he like the Government to charge him 50 cents a thousand? If the miner has to pay it, let the farmer pay it, even if he does not do so now. Let us have fair play. Don't let us have an imposition on one class.

MR. CHAIRMAN—(Reads resolution): "That the collection by the Government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood used by the owner upon mines and mineral claims for mining purposes should be discontinued." The amendment is simply the addition of two words which come in as I show you: "That the collection by the Government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood used by the owner upon mines and mineral claims and smelters for mining purposes should be discontinued." The words "and smelters" is the only difference to the resolution as provided by the amendment.

MR. JOS. HUNTER, M.P.P., of Cariboo—The way I read that resolution is this: that if a man wishes to put up a building on his mineral claim he has to go out upon the public lands and cut timber, and bring it in on to his claim and put up his building, and I do not consider there is any other construction possible to put on it. If that is limited to the mineral claim, and if the mine owner is allowed to cut timbers on his mineral claim free of taxes, then most certainly every member of this Convention will agree to it, but as it is now, I hold that a miner can go out on the public lands and cut timber for the purpose of the development of his mines without paying taxes.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I make one suggestion. That after the word "upon" "his own" should be inserted.

MR. HUNTER—I would suggest another amendment. Put in the words "cut and used."

The mover and seconder of the amendment asked leave that the amendment be withdrawn. Leave granted.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The motion now reads: "That the collection by the Government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood used by the owner upon his own mines and mineral claims for mining purposes should be discontinued."

MR. HEIDMAN, of Phoenix—I move an amendment in this respect: That the wood that is cut and used on Crown granted claims must be used upon the claims upon which the wood is cut.

MR. HOWSE—It seems to me that a suggestion is quite in order. We are making a reduction in the revenue of this Province. Could you not put in a clause giving us a rebate on the taxes collected in the past? (Laughter.)

The resolution was adopted.

MINE HOISTING AND THE SIGNAL CODE.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The next motion is that the code of signals for mine hoisting be repealed.

DR. SINCLAIR moved the adoption of this resolution.

MR. SEAMAN—I wish to state that I am strongly opposed to this resolution. We have mines that are working all the time, and there are men continually in the shaft operating those mines. If you go to work and repeal this law every new manager or superintendent can come along and say: "I am going to establish a new code of signals. Under the present signals now in use we have not had a great many accidents, simply because these men have their ears trained to that extent that they know their signals. Now, if you are going to change that code and are going to put those men on their usual shift under the new code, you will find that fifty of these men are apt to make a mistake, and they will get a signal that they have not been used to, and what will be the result? You immediately are confronted with the loss of life. If you are going to bring in a change of signals some unfortunate is going to pay for it with his life. A man who navigates a ship has a code of signals, and if you change his signals what is going to be the result? And the same with a railway. I am asking this for the benefit of the working miner of the Province of British Columbia. I ask you to let this present code stand. What is their object in asking to have this repealed? Here you are, gentlemen, different delegates from different places in the Province, and you know we have had serious accidents. Now if you repeal this code you will have still more. I might be a foreman, and I might say to my men under me: "Here is a new code," but he has been used to a certain code, and it is going to be very hard for him to adopt himself to this new one. I have seen engineers who have made mistakes in using a new code, and they have never come round any more, and now you want to go to work and substitute this code, and let every Tom, Dick and Harry come along and make new codes without any regard for the men's lives on the shafts. Now, gentlemen, this is the first thing that the working miner has asked for, and I want you gentlemen to act on that, and I say, gentlemen, it would be a most dangerous thing to leave the mines without a general code of signals, and as our present code works all right, what is the use of changing it? Now, gentlemen, let this code stand as it is. I want you, gentlemen, to vote against this resolution if you wish to work in the interests of the working miner.

MR. ANDERSON, of Slocan—I am a working miner, and I heartily endorse the sentiments of Mr. Seaman from Rossland. The working miner has at all times danger to contend with, even under the most favourable circumstances, and when he has a code of signals, which is understood by every engineer throughout the Province, what reason can you advance for changing it? They have become accustomed to using these signals, and as the previous speaker has just said, if you go to work and change these signals, any Tom, Dick or Harry can come around and say to his engineer, "Here is a new code of signals." This is a mistake, and I cannot understand what object any man can have in bringing in a resolution such as this, and I am directly opposed to it, and I hope that this Convention will vote it down.

MR. KIRBY—I wish to second the resolution, and also to say a few words in favour of the resolution. This present signal code, I would say, is something adopted about two years ago, and it has been a very sore point with mine man-

agers and engineers, and those who have been responsible for the consequences of mine hoisting. The trouble with the signal code is that it has been a question which has not been properly understood, it is something like the rules and regulations for running a railway. The question you will have to decide is as to whose judgment you will take for operating the best trains on the railway. Will you take the judgment of those who are at the head and are responsible for the administration of those rules, or will you take the judgment of the employees here and there throughout the different parts of the road? You must take either one or the other. It is a technical question, and the trouble is that it has been very much misunderstood. The impression prevails, I know, from the speakers who have just addressed you, that in opposing the signal code they are opposing something that will mean a great benefit to the poor miner and keep him from being crippled and injured. In the first place, gentlemen, let me assure you that every accident which happens to the poor miner the mining company are more anxious to avoid this accident than perhaps the miner, because it not only means that they do not wish to injure their men, but it means that it takes large sums of money out of their pockets, and I do not know any greater reason than that why our managers should want to operate their shafts in the best possible way. I speak as the manager of the deepest mine in the Province, and I also speak as a mining engineer of many years' standing who has given a special study to mine hoisting. The trouble with the signal code is this, that you cannot get up a code which will apply to all mines, without injuring and endangering the work in some of these mines. In the first place, the question of the signal code might aid the Government. What they have to do with the hoisting is simply based upon the right of adding to the safety of the employees. A government has the right to do that. Now, the idea has prevailed in some way, if we get a uniform code it would increase the safety, and unfortunately the Government has taken this idea without going into the figures. The way to get at the facts is to take a list of the mine accidents which are published in all the principal districts of the world. You will find that a very small percentage of accidents in the world are caused by signals. Out of that small percentage I do not know in my long experience as a mining engineer of a single case in which an accident caused by signals would have been prevented by the use of a uniform code. I do not know of one case. I have asked many mine managers and they have been unable to name a single case where the accident would not have been due to that. A very few accidents are ascribed to that cause, and those accidents you will find when the mistake is made occur in another way. It occurs because the bell rope or the electric wires or the belt in some way does not work. It may be that it misses a spoke. The man making the signals has not made a mistake in sounding the number of bells, but the communications have given away, or he has not pressed hard enough, or it may be that the engineer does not hear the bells correctly on account of two signals coming up from the different sides of the shaft or some other reason. The reason that this present code has aroused so much opposition is that it was not prepared in the proper way by consulting with experts responsible for that class of work. In its being prepared it was taken from a very large and complicated signal code, one which more or less was a botch taken from different sources, and one which in our deliberate judgment increased vastly the danger of hoisting. I do not wish to work on a shaft where that code is in operation. If that signal code could have a signal code to lessen these dangers, but as an these mines. What object would I have in our own practice in increasing the danger of the miner? Does it save us a dollar of expense not to have this signal code? It does not save us one dollar. What object have I to kill men or injure them when every accident costs our company thousands of dollars? I trust you will not consider I have any ulterior motive in view when I say that the present signal code increases the danger of mines. There is no doubt but that you could have as signal code to lessen these dangers, but as an expert I set to work deliberately to see if I could devise one

which would apply uniformly without injuring the men in the mines, and without adding to expense, and I gave it up. What is suited to a large mine is unsuitable to a small one, and what is suitable to a mine under certain conditions is unsuitable to one where you have different means of operating, your name, and so I beg of you that whatever your wish about this is, if you do not wish to abolish the code altogether, I advise that it be made more workable. I think it ought to be abolished. I think the Government ought to direct its attention to increasing the safety of mines, and if, gentlemen, you decide to abolish this code altogether I would advise that you ask the Government to reform it by calling in a commission of experts who have made a special study of this subject.

MR. HEIDMAN, of Phoenix—In proposing to resist the resolution which has been offered before this meeting, I do so on behalf of the working miner. We are the men who must stand the results of these mistakes, and we have the right to every consideration before this Convention, and the consideration we are asking for is simply that we have a uniform code of signals used in hoisting throughout this Province where our lives as a matter of fact are held in the hands of that simple code. We are asking nothing unreasonable. We are asking for conditions that impose no extra work or hardship upon these companies, and we ask you to give us your generous support in opposing this resolution.

MR. SEAMAN—We heard Mr. Kirby from Rossland, and he told you of the hardship of this work, and he told you that this present code was a botch. Now, I ask you if that is the kind of botch you can make for the safety of the working man, the more botches you make the better we shall like you. The only accidents we had up at Rossland were caused by a man who could not run a wheelbarrow on the streets of Victoria, and to-day he is an outcast. That is the only accident since this code has been in operation, and that was simply because the man who was placed there was no engineer. Now, gentlemen, I hope that you will let the code signals stand until they can invent something better. I am like the man from Missouri. I want you to show me first whether you can improve it or not.

MR. TOWNSEND—As the mover of the resolution I want to give you my reason for doing so, and I have it directly from some of the engineers in the Rossland camp that there are points existing in the present code which are unwieldy, and they would like them amended. I would not ask you to take the code out of existence altogether, but to put in one which will work better than this does.

MR. F. RICHARDS, of Vancouver—I think that one thing the Convention is for is to hear the views of working miners, and we cannot do anything better than bringing together the working miners, the mine owners and the mining engineers, and let them settle this question, and we will adopt their views.

MR. J. B. HOBSON—As a miner of thirty-five years' experience both in deep quartz mines and deep placer mines worked by the drifting process, I claim it is most necessary to have a proper code of signals that will protect the miner from the danger attending his work in deep mines, and I claim if the code in force is not a satisfactory one, which will give greater protection to the miners and less inconvenience to the mine owner, a better one should be adopted. The present code should remain in force until such time as a better one is formulated.

MR. HOWSE—I was warned by Mr. McBride, the Minister of Mines at the time this code was passed, and who I may say secured the passage of the code, that this question would come up before the Convention. They took the greatest care to go through the different mining camps of the United States, Minnesota, Colorado, and other States, in order to gather all the available information necessary as a basis of forming this code, and then they put it into shape. They printed those circulars containing all this information, and sent those copies to every mining camp in British Columbia. There were some 1,300 circulars sent out from the Mining Department

at that time, and the only objection which came to that code was from Mr. Kirby himself, and the suggestion he made was adopted in that code.

MR. GAUNCE—This thing resolves itself very simply in my mind, and it is just this—if the men whose lives are involved in this matter are satisfied with the present code, I think it is the least we can do to gratify their wish, and vote that resolution down.

MR. KIRBY—I rise, by way of explanation, to explain the statement which has just been made, that this code of signals was framed mainly upon my advice and upon my suggestions. I would say that that was a subject of a public altercation, and the explanation which was made in the newspapers during the controversy was some eighteen months or two years ago. I then showed my views clearly by publishing the entire correspondence, and showed that the signal code had been adopted in the face of our protest and against our arguments, and against every argument we could bring to bear, and against the policy of having such a signal code. We explained in every way to the Minister of Mines and the Mineralogist that the code was unnecessary, and I might state not only myself but the entire British Columbia Mine Owners' Association at that time joined in protesting against this code, and in our opinion the better judges of that code are those who should have designed it, and those who have to be responsible for the life and safety of the miner are better judges than the men underground who do not have to deal with these technical engineering problems. The shaft is the most delicate part of the mine. Upon it all the safety depends, and we gave it as our united protest that we were against this signal code, and therefore it is not right to give this Convention the impression that I was in any way responsible for this code as it stands now. I did everything a human being could do at the time to prevent its being enforced.

MR. DUKE—The great majority of mine managers and mine owners are strictly against any code signals. You will go to any of the large mines in Colorado and Butte where there are all the way from 300 to 350 men working in the mines. In the working of these mines timber is required daily to be moved from place to place on very short notice, and the idea of having a code of signals, in my estimation and in the estimation of every working man, is for the safety of the miner. Now, if there is no code of signals, what are we to do? Their idea in not having a uniform code is simply to get you out of the road to do something else, and to get the work done more quickly. I believe in working expeditiously, but I don't believe in expediting this work at the cost of the very life blood of the working miner. It seems to me to be a very strange problem that these gentlemen do not want to give us a code of signals. We are satisfied with the code we have at present if they never give us anything better, and you and I who have had to work for years in mines are not supposed to know what we do want. Now, gentlemen, if you had to work on a mining property, wouldn't you want to see a code of signals hung up? If there is no code of signals, how are you to know what bell is given you or anything else; and, gentlemen, just so long as there is a code of signals which is reasonable and just, I believe in leaving it alone. If any of those mine managers can give us anything better, let them do so, but let us have the substitute before we abolish the signal as it stands now.

MR. SMITH CURTIS—I wish to bring in an amendment which I think will get over the difficulty—"That the Government be urged to immediately obtain all necessary information and advice from both miners and mine owners to amend the code of mine signals, so as to make it as perfect and safe as possible."

MR. ROLT, of Rossland—I have much pleasure in seconding that amendment. It is clearly not the wish that the mines of the Province should be allowed to go on without a code of signals. That, I take it, is too monstrous a proposition for any reasonable and humane man to entertain for a minute, and above all things this Association has shown itself to be

composed of reasonable men, and they are all humane. There is not one of us who would sleep at night if we thought our deliberations had made any more perilous or dangerous the task of the miner than it is at present; and above all things, we wish that the deliberations of this Association should do justice to all interests involved, and it appears to me, as far as I have been able to learn, and so far as this question has been debated, there is considerable dissatisfaction in the minds of the experts on one side and the miners on the other in regard to this matter. The experts to whom I allude are the mine managers. They claim that the code of signals at present in use is imperfect, complicated and unsatisfactory. Now, gentlemen, rather than let that condition of affairs continue, I would ask that this matter be tested and looked into, and therefore I have much pleasure in seconding that amendment.

MR. TOWNSEND—As mover of the original resolution I will withdraw and allow the amendment to take its place.

MR. KIRBY—As a seconder I agree to the withdrawal.

The question was then put by the Chairman and the original resolution read, as to whether leave should be granted for the withdrawal of the resolution.

Leave was granted for the withdrawal of the original motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It will now read as amended—"That the Government be urged to immediately obtain all necessary information and advice from both miners and mine owners to amend the code of mine signals so as to make it as perfect as it is possible." Now, I would ask all who are in favour of this resolution?

The motion was carried.

27th February, 2:30 p.m.

At the opening of the afternoon session a presentation of cigars was made to the Convention through the kindness of Joe Tasse, of Montreal.

SENATOR REID, chairman of the Committee on the Constitution and By-laws, reported.

On motion of Mr. Hodge a cordial invitation was extended to the citizens of Victoria to attend the Convention.

THE BOILER INSPECTION ACT.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The next item on the programme is:—"Resolved, That the Boiler Inspection Act is productive of great hardship, and that the Legislature be urged to amend the same as follows:

"1. To reduce the present excessive fees so that the same may conform to those prevailing in the other provinces.

"2. Conformity with the general practice in the other provinces to accept the certificate of reputable boiler insurance companies."

DR. SINCLAIR—I would just say in connection with this matter that I am entirely ignorant as to the fees here or those prevailing in other provinces. I presume that the majority of the delegates in the Convention are in the same position.

MR. GALT—The particulars are not as yet before the Convention.

The resolution was laid on the table.

SALE OF CROWN GRANTED CLAIMS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The next item proposed is as follows:—

"Resolved, That owners of Crown granted mineral claims sold for taxes should have the same right of redemption for six months as is accorded to all other owners of Crown granted or other lands sold for taxes."

MR. GALT—The position is, if anyone owns land throughout this Province, and fails to pay taxes within a reasonable

time, those lands are entitled to be offered for sale publicly, and may be purchased by anybody, but the owner has either six months or a year—a year I think it is—after the sale takes place in which to redeem his lands, on paying the taxes and all the expenses incidental to the sale, and I think it is ten per cent. interest on the moneys advanced by the purchaser. It is deemed, I know, to be a reasonable provision, because it has prevailed in Ontario as long as I can recollect, and it prevails here on all lands with the exception of mineral claims, but for some reason or other as regards mineral claims that reasonable provision has been left out, and the result is that within the last two weeks I have seen advertisements offering very valuable mineral properties for sale owned by perhaps parties at a distance and the party advertising the sale informs the purchaser that it will be absolutely without any right of redemption. It is a harsh matter, it seems to me, and it is unnecessary, and there is no reason why owners of mineral claims in this respect and in other respects should be placed at a greater disadvantage than other inhabitants or citizens of British Columbia, and therefore I move the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Rumberger seconded.

A Delegate—I move that the time be a year instead of six months.

MR. RUMBERGER—I am very much opposed to that amendment, and I think that three or six months is long enough. You take mineral claims and they are different from agriculture or any other kind of lands Crown granted. As a rule, they lie in an out-of-the-way place, and they are only good for the development of minerals. Unless the minerals are prospected and developed they are good for nothing else, and I think that six months is plenty of time to redeem the property. If you let it run for a year, you have another year's taxes to pay, and whereas the man who bought the property in the first place may have purchased the Crown granted claim merely for the purpose of speculation, and it may be that it is adjacent to some other valuable property, and there is a possibility of them working it, or of it becoming of some value, and perhaps at the end of the year these properties would be sold for taxes again, and pass into the second purchaser's hands. Nobody would buy this land in the first place unless it would be merely for the purpose of holding it over for perhaps another year. If they are sold for taxes again there would be a difficulty to know who should redeem this property, and I think six months is sufficient time to give any man to redeem his own property. I have about 26 or 27 Crown granted mineral claims myself, and I just found out two or three weeks ago that some of them were being advertised for taxes, and I just happened to have partners interested to the same claims, and the tax notice was sent to my partners, and I happened to just see them advertised in a paper, and I think that if you had six months in which to redeem those lands there would be plenty of time to give notice to parties living at a distance. If the intending purchaser wishes to prospect the mineral claim, then it will give him a chance to go ahead and prospect the same; and I think the man who purchases the Crown granted claim should have an opportunity to go on that claim and prospect it as soon as possible, and six months is a sufficient length of time to give the original owner to redeem this property.

MR. SMITH—Six months' time is long enough to hold a Crown granted claim after a man has paid the tax, and if he cannot redeem it in six months he should not have the property.

The motion was carried.

FREE MINERS' CERTIFICATES AND THE FORFEITURE CLAUSES.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The next resolution before the Convention is:—

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the law relating to free miners' certificates should be amended so that failure to keep up a free miner's certificate shall not work forfeiture of risks acquired under it.

Mr. Lugin moved the adoption of the resolution.

MR. SKINNER, of Atlin—I beg to ask if this motion is carried, what would be the good of having free miners' certificates at all? Why not do away with that altogether?

MR. CHAIRMAN—In the State of Washington the rule is that if you take out the certificate on the 30th June you pay \$10, and if you don't take it out on the 30th June and take it out on the 3rd September, you pay \$12.50, and if you take it out on the 31st September you pay \$15; on the 30th March it costs you \$17.50, and if you don't take it out until the following June you pay \$20. That is the way it is done in the State of Washington; it is made a progressive fine.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS, of Vancouver—I beg to second that motion. I think it is in the interest of prospectors that they should not lose their claims, and I know men who have not been able to pay their \$5 right at the time, and the Government would not lose anything if they asked \$2.50, say, to pay down, and \$2.50 a few months afterwards.

MR. RAND, of Vancouver—You are quite right, Mr. Chairman, about the taking out of the certificates on the 30th June, but there is no progressive fine as you mention if he takes it out the following year.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The reason I gave you the information in regard to this is simply because I happened to be the secretary of a company which was incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington, and it was some little time after receiving my notice I, in my innocence, sent on a cheque for \$10, and they very politely sent the cheque back to me, on account of my having delayed the payment, and they stated if I sent \$15 I would get my free miner's certificate. There is no free miner's certificate, but it is a certificate which serves the same purpose.

MR. MORTIMER LAMB—I will move an amendment to this effect: The penalty clauses in the Mineral Act be so amended that complete forfeiture is not the punishment for non-compliance with any small technicality. I do not think, speaking to that motion, that as a matter of fact many claims are forfeited by the miner failing to take out his certificate in time, but a great many claims are forfeited, upon which large sums have been spent, by both individuals and companies, for failure to record assessment work within the specified time, and while we want to see the regulations and the requirements of the Act respected, yet it is not right that a man investing in this country in good faith should be subjected to such a penalty as complete forfeiture of his property. There are several cases of mining companies, as many of you know—I can mention several—that have met with that difficulty. They have left their affairs in the hands of agents, who have perhaps neglected the recording of the assessment work, and they would either have to lose their property or they would have to pay large sums to the man who held them up, and I think instead of a complete forfeiture you should insert some clause in the Act on the system of cumulative penalties. That is, if a man does not report his assessment work on a certain date he will receive a notification from the Mining Recorder, who should keep a record of the time when the assessment dues should be paid, and he should notify the owner of the claim. Say your assessment was due on a certain day, and you had not paid it, you would be subjected to a fine of \$5, and then again, he would notify you that you owed \$10 if it was not paid within a later date and so on, until up to the end of six months, and then at the end of the six months if the fine was not paid you would lose your property, and would not deserve to have it. We want to do the square thing for the miner, and I therefore move an amendment to the resolution which covers the whole ground:—That complete forfeiture is not imposed by the non-compliance with the technical requirements of the Act.

MR. S. S. TAYLOR, of Nelson—I support very heartily the motion that is before the meeting. I may say many times in my profession have I noticed the evils resulting from forfeiture of mineral claims by not taking out a free miner's license. I could quote you instances where by mere acci-

dent men have lost valuable property or valuable interests in property, and it has passed to their co-owners. A gentleman from Vancouver says, "What protection has the Government if you pass this resolution?" The Government need not allow any man to report any annual work or file any claim until that man has taken out that free miner's license. He has to report his work every year or he loses his claim, and if he does not report it as a free miner he has to take out a free miner's license. But, gentlemen, to say that man loses his whole mineral claim because he happens to be somewhat negligent, or sick, or up in the hills tied up with snow, it is a piece of rank legislation. I do not wish to use these words in an offensive sense, but it is a mistake to have such legislation, and in doing business with miners and prospectors I have found that it bears very unjustly upon this class of people.

MR. GALT—I not only concur in what my friend, Mr. Taylor, has just said, but I desire to corroborate him, and say that in my experience as a professional man in Rossland, in the days when we did not have so many prospectors as we have now almost every sitting of the court was taken up with quarrels and disputes, which almost wholly depended upon this very question of free miners' certificates. Now, when you come to think of how that comes about it is very simple. We will say A locates a mineral claim, and he has his free miner's certificate, but after a while he sells that claim perhaps to a friend of his who he supposes has a free miner's certificate, but who by accident or forgetfulness has let it run out a day before. Well, that man sells the land to someone else, and very often that particular mineral claim goes through four, five or six different hands, and eventually reaches a state through the process of development when it becomes a valuable property, and then a man of means or company takes hold of it, and immediately some sort of litigation is started, and that places the existing owner in the position of having to prove his title to that claim, and in proving his title I need not say, Mr. Chairman, that of course he has to go back to the very origin of his title. He has to show that the claim was properly and legally located, and that every transfer down to the time he took possession of the property was legally carried out, and if there is a single flaw in that chain of title, whether by the absence of a free miner's certificate or recording the work, if he fails in one single particular to prove his title, his title is gone, and a man who perhaps never had any interest in it at all would simply search the books and discover some irregularity like that and he would be let into the possession of that valuable mineral claim. He would be what we call a "jumper," and I do not think there would be any difficulty in the Government, aided as they are by the Attorney-General, who knows all the facts relating to these matters, in framing a Mineral Act both as regards the free miner's certificate and also with regard to this annual assessment, which would be satisfactory to all concerned.

The question was put and the motion carried.

TAXATION OF MINERAL CLAIMS.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The next resolution is as follows:—

"Resolved, That for the purpose of taxation Crown granted mineral claims should be placed in the same position as other mineral claims and that the exemption from the tax imposed by section 145 of the Mineral Act should be extended to all groups of Crown granted claims, upon any one of which claims the assessment work for the whole group may have been performed."

MR. BELYEA—I would like to say that the suggestion for that resolution came in unsigned, and I do not know nor the committee does not know who suggested it. I think the gentleman who suggested it should rise and move it, if only for the purpose of moving the discussion on the resolution.

MR. W. L. HILL, of Nelson—I beg to move the adoption of that resolution. I would like someone to speak to it. It seems to me a little unreasonable that when we bring before the meeting any question of what we consider injustice that we should be opposed. This is a very simple matter as I understand, and the principle is as set out in that resolution. It was never intended that when a company was operating a

group of claims they should go to work and put \$200 worth of work on each claim. As long as they were doing that amount on one claim, that is all that should be required, and it should count just the same.

Dr. Sinclair seconded the resolution.

MR. GALT—May I say one word with respect to this resolution, in support of Mr. Leslie Hill's motion. The clause in question is section 145 of the Mineral Act. That is a perfectly clear enactment, and, as I understand, the objection which Mr. Hill raises to it is this. Supposing a man has three or four Crown granted mineral claims, and does all his work on one of them, and the assessor steps in and says: "We will allow you to be free of taxation because you have spent \$200 on that claim, but as regards those four or five claims which really form part of your group, we are going to collect 25 cents an acre off them." That does seem to be an injustice because if a man owns a group composed of several mineral claims and does more work than \$200 worth of work in respect to these several claims on one claim alone, surely the Government requirements have been complied with, and he should not be called upon to pay this other 25 cents an acre on the other claims, as he has already paid that on this one single claim.

The question was then put and motion carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN read the draft Constitution and By-laws of the Association, and after much discussion and several amendments all the clauses to Section 8 were adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN—(Sec. 8.) This Association shall be non-political and shall have nothing whatever to do with labour problems."

MR. BOLDEN, of Victoria—I ask that this be left open. There is an opinion that it will destroy the work which the committee has in hand if this is brought up and discussed at the present time. In other words, they will be unable to report on the work you have given them to do, and perhaps there is an amendment to that which will enable them to bring in some report dealing with disputes. I ask, therefore, that this stand over.

MR. CHAIRMAN—You had better move that it be laid on the table.

MR. BOLDEN—I move that this section be laid over.

MR. EMERY, of Victoria—I think we should hear from some of the working miners in the Upper Country so that we can get their opinion; also some of the mine managers. This was moved by practically an outsider that this committee was formed in the first place, and if this committee can do anything to settle labour disputes they will be doing a great work, and if it is the wish of this Convention that that clause carry as it is now, I do not see that there is any reason why we should go on with this committee work.

MR. DUKE, of Rossland—In that clause of the Constitution it says that this Convention is to have nothing to do with labour. According to that, what is the use of this Convention. (Cries of "No, no.") It means that it shall have nothing to do with labour.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Labour problems.

MR. DUKE—Now, gentlemen, as a matter of fact what is this Convention called for? You are representing the mining industry, or in other words, what are you representing? Is it not capital? Has not that been the cry of the whole meeting, that we shall have something to do, we will revive the mining industry, and bring capital into the country, and just so soon as you take up the clause that you have passed here for this meeting to adopt, you are simply taking the bone and muscle of the mining industry away from it, and you will practically withdraw it from your institution. I have authority to say that you will lose over 3,000 miners, if you state that you have nothing to do with labour problems. You say you want your Association to be non-political. Well, gentlemen, when you go to work and represent capital, you are in politics to a certain extent and I ask that you delegates give

this matter your undivided attention, and have a proper debate on it, and a fair representation from everywhere in the Province.

MR. CHRIS FOLEY, of Vancouver—I heartily endorse the position taken by Mr. Duke in this matter. I feel that the labour question is so bound up in the mining industry of this country that this body cannot afford to ignore it, and I feel that it is the duty of this body to introduce the measure and have this committee go on with their work and endeavour to send in some report of some means by which these continuous struggles between capital and labour may be averted. Now, you say you don't want to introduce politics into this body. I am not in favour of going into political discussions, but you cannot introduce anything into this organization that is not in a sense political, and while I do not favour a Board of Compulsory Arbitration, up to two years ago I was an urgent advocate of the Compulsory Arbitration Board, and I have lost all faith in the government of this country in the enforcement of its laws, yet at the same time I consider that this body should have a Board of Investigators, and I would urge that such a board be appointed to go into this question. You have letters appearing in the daily papers from Mr. Tonkin, who states that the miner is deserving of no sympathy, and on the other hand I have a report issued by the miners which contradicts in every particular the statements made by Mr. Tonkin. Now, questions of this kind are certainly questions which interest this body, and I therefore believe you should support the motion here and permit the committee to formulate some plan by which we may have peace in this country in the future. It does not alone affect the interest of the labouring man and the mine manager, but it also affects the business men, who are as directly interested in this matter as we are, and the business men have been very neglectful of their duty. I believe it is their duty, as well as ours, to see that something should be done to find out who is to blame in the premises if we are not in a position to settle those disputes.

MR. BROWNLEE—We have just had the pleasure of listening to four of the committee appointed on the labour question from the labour point of view, and I am glad indeed to hear them voice their opinions, and I can assure the gentlemen if this question is to be introduced to this committee to make a report, from the experience we have had of these gentlemen we have nothing to fear whatever. They apparently want to put their grievances forth in a calm, dispassionate and mild way, but on the other hand we feel they are strong on their side. We do not feel that we are particularly weak, but we have not had a single voice on this side, from the side of capital, in this Province to say whether they wished to back up this question or not. Now, I believe there is only one large employer—a capitalist on the committee on the other side—the manager of the large Fernie mine, and I would like to-day to have an expression of opinion from the large employers of labour's side—Mr. Flumerfelt and others—as to whether they wish this matter taken up. If it is the policy of this Convention not to consider the labour question, let us know now. If we are to take it up we want to take it up earnestly, solemnly and honestly. I am simply the secretary of the committee, and I am willing to wait over here to-morrow, Sunday, Monday or any length of time to do my duty. Now, I shall ask some of my friends on the side of capital, representatives of employers of labour, to express themselves on this question, and let us know whether they wish this committee to go on and bring in their report.

MR. HEIDMAN—I just wish while on this subject to call your attention to one particular instance as to whether the question of labour and capital is of material interest to both capital and labour. To-day we are confronted, in the Kootenays and the Boundary country, by the Fernie strike, which affects the manager, the mine owner and the labourer, and this means that 40,000 or 50,000 people engaged in the mining industry will have to stop work, which will mean a great loss. Now, it shows like this, that the labour question is material to the mining man as well as to the labourers. If such conditions can arise, as confront us to-day in that country there, that a dispute between labour and capital can close down our

whole mining industry, should we not take this matter up and determine it at this Convention?

MR. LUGRIN—I thought one of the objects of the organization of this Mining Association was to bring together not only the mine owners, but the miners, and if we refuse to consider these questions which come home to the miners, how can we ask them reasonably to join us in our deliberations. Heretofore the deliberations of working men have been in their own lodge rooms and behind closed doors where others could not take part—just merely among themselves, and here is a place where they can speak wisely and truly and where their views will have consideration and weight, and I think it would be against the views of this Convention if we refused to discuss the question of labour and capital. I do think that this Association would destroy its usefulness, and weaken its strength throughout the Province, and fail to do all the good it would otherwise accomplish, if we pass this section and refuse to consider labour problems at all.

MR. SEAMAN—I am glad this motion came up. We came here with the idea that this Association was to be organized for the benefit of the mining community. We have now before us the details of this present Fernie strike. I do not think that the mining community has anything to fear and if this Convention takes this matter up, whatever conclusions they come to, this body of miners, I feel assured, will abide by any decision this Convention may come to. We all know to be up against strikes is radically wrong, and if this Convention sees fit to take this matter up, as an intelligent body of men, it will mean that we will understand each other far better than what Mr. Lugin says if we go behind closed doors. This thing of striking coal miners at the present time is going to paralyze the whole country and throw thousands of men out of employment, who are directly and indirectly interested in that country, and men who have stores throughout the country does it not affect you when pay day comes round and the boys have nothing to pay their bills with? I would like you, gentlemen of this Convention, to take some action in this matter, and whatever conclusion you come to—I believe I can speak for the miners of the Kootenay country, who are sensible men—they will abide by the conclusion of this Convention, and the miners are looking for some resolution to go before this Convention to see if the day is not absolutely past when strikes will take place.

MR. HUGH DICKSON, of Fernie—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen: I am a delegate for Fernie. Unfortunately I have not been working there lately, but was there before the explosion took place when 130 men were murdered through the mismanagement of the company. I saw lately a statement in the *Colonist* showing the rate of wages the men had been getting down there. I can speak nothing of the rate of wages since I left there. I know the rate of wages for tonnage of coal got out of No. 3 before the explosion was 75 cents a ton; No. 2, 65 cents a ton, and No. 1, 65 cents a ton. Since the present manager came there he reduced that down to 60 cents a ton. The average monthly wages were \$75 a month, but I see that the wages are now \$100 a month—a very strange thing that the wages go up when the tonnage comes down. After the 130 men were murdered in these mines this man Tonkin came, and he fetched a strike on, before the men were got out of the mine, trying to make the men work nine hours a day; yes, gentlemen, before all the men were got out—yet that same man he fetched on a strike, and he wanted to force nine hours a day on the men. He got them to go to work, and promised them if they started work they would have a vote on this eight-hour question. The voting took place and there were two ballot boxes. The manager stood at one ballot box, and another of the company stood at the other. There were supposed to be eight hours in that box (indicating) and nine hours in that. The day men, the coal miners or the contractors did not get leave to vote. If they worked six or eight hours that was their lookout. There were some 55 that did not vote, and some 155 that did vote, and there were some 100 odd that voted for the eight hours a day and the manager said that those who voted for the eight hours would have to work nine. They won't even allow the miners to buy

a little hall to hold their meetings in. I understand they have to walk two or three miles to hold their meetings, and yet this man Tonkin comes up and tells you in Victoria he is so good to these poor miners, which are digging coal at Morrissey for 40 cents a ton. Will any miner say he can make \$120 a month digging coal at that rate?

MR. BOLDEN—I would like to make this suggestion. It is the unanimous consent and wish of this Convention that this committee should go ahead, and I would ask anyone who has anything to say on that question to appear before the committee, and I think that is the proper time to discuss it.

MR. TAYLOR—As a member of the committee I want simply to explain our position on this matter. It is not the intention to exclude the consideration of questions affecting labour. We have been considering yesterday and the day before a great many questions affecting both labour and capital, but they are not labour problems. It is the social questions which we desire to exclude, because social problems, like religious questions, are sometimes taken up in the way of prejudice, and all that sort of thing both on the part of labour and on the part of capital, and in order to ensure the success of this organization and to ensure its permanency, that it may treat all the many vital questions in a fair and unprejudiced manner, we thought it wise to exclude all questions of political parties, all questions of religion if you say so, and all questions of social problems. That is what we meant by the framing of this clause. We did not intend to exclude from the consideration of this Convention anything that would affect labour and capital. We did intend to exclude that feature of the question on which evolves social problems. That is our position, and there is some reason why this clause should pass. You can gather from the discussion that has already taken place some argument in defence of the position I mention. Personal attacks have been made. They may be justified and they may not be justified, but I see running through all this argument something which would rend this Association asunder if this thing persisted. I was pleased to see this argument come up because I venture to say if that clause is struck out of that Constitution, there is sure to be an occasion which will arise in the future when you will wish it has been left there. We are placing ourselves entirely in your hands. We have no determined conviction. That is the way we view it, and looking at the best interests of this Association and being anxious to preserve it and make it a permanent institution, we believe in the clause being left as it is.

MR. GAUNCE—As a member of the committee I think it would only be right to say that the Convention should take this matter up and thresh it out. Personally, I want to say that the constituency that sent me here did not send me on any ornamental mission whatever. I do not want to belong to a society which is purely ornamental in any sense of the word, and if there is anything that this meeting can do to better the conditions of the country in which I live, then I claim it is the duty of this committee and of this Convention to do it. I have had the pleasure of meeting with the different members of the committee last evening and this afternoon, and I have been very much pleased at the presentation of the case that has been made on both sides. I have heard the gentlemen who have spoken on the labour questions, and they have spoken calmly and dispassionately, and I cannot understand how the presentation of similar views of similar minds can produce anything but harmony rather than disorder in the Convention. I think we all want to understand each other better than we do and I must say that I was pleased with the statement this gentleman (Mr. Tonkin) put forth, and also of the understanding—perhaps not a full understanding—which seemed to be arrived at between Mr. Tonkin and the labour men on the committee. It seems to me that after he got through with the presentation they did not look upon him as a monster, and Mr. Tonkin could not think but that in our committee there were a large number of fair-minded men, and the delegation to which I belong asked us to pledge ourselves to have this question brought up at the Convention. If they were wrong in asking this they certainly had a mistaken idea of the utility of the Convention. I told them I would

do what I could to bring about a discussion on this subject. If the condition that prevails in this country is to prevail much longer what good are our mines? What good are the smelters of the Boundary country? I beseech you, gentlemen of the Convention, to approach this subject in a calm, dispassionate and friendly manner, and if there is anything to be done, even at this late juncture in the affairs, to harmonize capital and labour in this Province, let us do it. (Cheers.)

MR. BURRELL, Grand Forks—I am speaking to the amendment which I have seconded. I have this to say about this amendment, that I think it would be wise to let it stand over until to-morrow, because I think the committee will also suggest a revision of this particular section, and I would briefly ask that we have more time to consider this question. We all feel that we should stand together. Now, gentlemen, I am certain of this, if we were to introduce the discussion of labour problems into this Convention it would be doing a grievous injury to the Convention, and I do not think that either the mine owners or mine workers want to see grievous discussions introduced as to the rights or wrongs of the case. With regard to our own delegation, we had the greatest difficulty in persuading the smelter workers to come to this Convention and the only reason they came was because in the circular sent out asking us to come Mr. Hobson, it was stated in California, had settled labour disputes, and it was for that reason they thought they would come here, and this Convention should endeavour in some way to provide the solution of this ever-burning question and have it settled once and for all.

MR. HAGGAN, Revelstoke—This Convention has to consider the fact that the labour organizations of the Kootenay and the Boundary have appointed delegates to come here to this Convention and discuss on the questions affecting capital and labour. If this Convention can do anything to settle what has almost devastated the resources of the country it will do a beneficial act. I think from the statement we had from this gentleman who comes from Rossland, we have had a generous, magnificent presentation of the case from the workers' standpoint, and those who represent capital should accept this in the spirit that these remarks have been made. I think there is a misunderstanding on the part of this meeting as to what the committee wish. The committee wish to exclude labour problems. In other words they wish to exclude politics, but one of the objects of this Convention should be the amicable discussion of all subjects affecting the mining industry. I come from a portion of the country where there has not been a strike in that colony since the enactment of that law which secured to that country peace and prosperity, and if you can achieve these conditions in British Columbia to-day, you have reason to be proud of the result.

MR. J. B. HOBSON, of Bullion—Since you have referred to the experience of the California Mining Association in settling the differences between mining labour and capital, I will in the way of explanation say that there was no clause in the California constitution that permitted the discussion of social, labour or political problems of any kind; and I claim that the omission of such a clause from the constitution of the California Mining Association aided materially in the success attained by that association. There was nothing in the constitution of the California Association to prevent it from using its good offices in settling differences between miner and mine-owner, and there should be nothing in the constitution to prevent the Provincial Association from doing likewise. The mine owners and mine workers in California are as harmonious as one happy family, and I claim the time is close at hand when the same friendly feeling will prevail in British Columbia. If the discussion of social, labour and political problems were permitted at the Conventions of this or any other association of its kind it would not last one year. I don't believe there is a mine owner or mining man or merchant in this Convention who will not use every effort in his power to broaden the field of labour and to better the condition of the miner and mining industry. The object of this Association is to make an attempt to improve the depressed condition of the mining industry and to secure such remedial legislation as will open the vast mineral fields of the Province to the prospector, miner and legitimate mining investor, and we have asked the individual miner, prospector, merchant and

business man to come and join in a united effort to secure the desired betterment of the condition of the prospector and miner, for the field of his labour at good wages will be broadened. I am perfectly willing that the constitution should be returned to the committee and section 8 be so amended as to allow this Association to use its good offices in the settlement of disputes between miner and mine owner, but will not favour the Association's interference in the differences between employer and employee of any other class of labour. Let this plan be tried and if harmony cannot be secured between miner and mine owner, we can amend the constitution at the meeting of the next Convention. (Applause.)

MR. SEAMAN—We heard the report that Mr. Hobson made. We have heard of how the association was formed in California, but there is no comparison between the conditions in California and the conditions as they exist in British Columbia. We came down here with the understanding that we were to meet for the well-being of all in British Columbia. We have heard of the two per cent. tax, and what you want to pass there is being passed over by this Convention. We heard Mr. Hobson get up and say what he wanted for the placer mining industry, but we have not heard of one resolution governing strikes in this country. We are not asking for any favour from this Convention. The only thing is if you can frame some legislation to cover this ground, just the same as you have taken up this morning with regard to the quartz and placer mining. If you want to turn this matter down—it is up to this Convention to do so, but you have to realize this. These strikes, they should be regulated. They ought to be a thing of the past, and as a miner standing here I say we are not afraid of this result, and the other parties say they are not afraid of the result. Where is the nigger in the woodpile? With all due respect, gentlemen, I say there never was a case in the history of California where the conditions surpassed the present conditions as they exist in British Columbia to-day, for the simple reason this is a question which will affect thousands and thousands of men. It will affect all those who are interested to a certain extent in the smelters in the Boundary country, and it is up to everyone that is a resident of this country to try and find a remedy. We are asking only this. If you take this matter up we will have the satisfaction of knowing you took it up. We came here with the idea that this Convention was for the general welfare of British Columbia. We are not living in California, and it seems to me if you have the well-being of British Columbia at heart, anything you can do here to amend this evil, the mining community as miners will appreciate your efforts, and it seems to me at this present Convention that we want everything in sight. Now is it fair or honest? I am appealing to you, gentlemen here, and you gentlemen who are merchants and do business through this country where this strike is affected—it is to you I look for something to be done here at this Convention to settle this matter. I do hope that I will live to see the day when these struggles between capital and labour will be a thing of the past.

A Delegate—The proposition made by Mr. Hobson is what we are asking for. We do not ask for compulsory arbitration from this body, but we ask that there be a resolution put before this Convention for the purpose of going into these questions.

MR. J. P. HOBSON—I claim, gentlemen, you who are members of mine workers' unions, if you have grievances pass your resolutions at the meetings of your unions, and present them to us, and we can act upon them through specially appointed committees.

MR. GAUNCE—I ask the gentleman if we have an article in our constitution which prohibits the introduction of labour problems, how can such a presentation be made.

MR. HOBSON—I claim that it can. That article is only introduced for the purpose of preventing just such discussion as you had to-day. I claim that if you urge upon us, or the body of this Association to assist you or relieve you of any existing grievance you will find every man in the Association ready to put his shoulder to the wheel and secure relief for you.

CAPT. WOLLEY, of Saanich—I cannot understand the position which has just been taken by the gentleman from Cariboo. I agree entirely with the gentleman that if you have these questions brought up you might as well let this clause stand as it was in the first instance. We understood this meeting was to be called for the benefit of the mining industry in British Columbia in ridding it of those things which at the present moment are making it a failure, and there are, I believe, three things which are harped about more than any other. These three things, as I understand them, are the two per cent. taxation, which has been satisfactorily disposed of; another was the question of advising incompetent legislatures as to how they ought to act, which you have refused to do, and the third was the discussion and settlement of the labour problem. Now, if you are going to take up the one thing which is easy and which will benefit you and you are going to burk the two great questions before you, namely, the question of a substitute for this two per cent. tax, and the settlement of these labour troubles, which is at the real bottom of all this trouble connected with the mining industry, then I do not think the Association is worth a hill of beans. You have been telling us that you cannot get capital interested in London to take up the development of the mining industry in this country because of your mining tax. Now, the gentlemen who have spoken about it are not the only ones who have been to London. I have been to London also, and do you know what the gentlemen whom I have seen and spoken with on the Stock Exchange tell me? They say they don't want anything to do with British Columbia because you have had such unstable governments. Now, gentlemen, if you are going to put the Government in the hole by taking off taxes and you are not going to assist them by finding a substitute for your tax, then you are going to continue having unstable governments which will hurt you more than any two per cent. tax will do. That is the second thing, and, gentlemen, the next question is the question of labour. You know the best way to deal with any man is to meet him face to face. I know the labour men and have been amongst them, though I am no labour man. Now, gentlemen, I am a British Columbian with a lot of money invested in this country, and I do not see any way of getting a dividend on my investments until the labour question is settled. What I find out is that we do not want to sit on the lid of the teapot until it bursts. If you are going to busy yourself with your own little tax—I am a miner too, and I feel this tax—and are going to burk the two great questions which are now before you, then you are not going to make this Association a success.

MR. SMITH CURTIS, of Rossland—I think that the discussions we have had have been not only interesting but instructive as well, and I am glad, in a sense, that this discussion has arisen, because it shows that both parties—capital and labour—and other parties, who perhaps otherwise would not be qualified or eligible, are to meet here, and in a friendly way discuss these matters. I think from what has been spoken by various parties here that there is a very great misapprehension as to the meaning of this section, and they all don't take the same meaning out of it. As I understand this section, for instance, it says to begin with, that this body shall be non-political. That is ambiguous. Non-political might mean that it has nothing whatever to do with politics. Every resolution passed here and which has been submitted to this Convention has dealt with politics. Again, non-political may mean as regards this meeting that we are not of any party political; that we are not partisan, and in that way it is used in the proper sense. This is not to be a partisan body. That is, we know of no political body, and further than that we should know no particular class. We meet here as a class, and our object in so doing is to do the best for the mining industry, which affects a large number of classes, and upon which a large number of classes are dependent. Then to go further; this body is not to deal with labour problems. The gentlemen who have brought that forward desired perhaps that those labour questions which do not affect the mining industry at all shall not be brought into this association and discussed, and that is perfectly right. Now, it has been sug-

gested that instead of saying labour problems we should say merely "social" problems, and if that is done I see no objection whatever to this clause, but for my own part I would just like to see the whole thing struck out because in the first place you have defined the objects of your association and those objects are supposed to be non-political, not trying to help or aid one party as against another party—I mean political party—but you have shown that it is to forward the development of the mining industry. Here is the position in regard to coke supplied and coal supplied. As has been said here we have urged the Government to take off the two per cent. tax because it was an unjust tax and was a burden upon the mining industry, but then if you are confronted with another situation which closed down your mines what difference does it make whether you have a two per cent. tax or not? After all, the two per cent. tax is a very small question in comparison to the other question, and this question must be dealt with by this association, and if no one else has the courage to bring forward a resolution I am prepared to bring it forward myself—not a resolution in favour of any particular coal company, but a resolution to bring pressure to bear upon the powers, that are empowered by the people to legislate in the interests of the people, that will have the effect of bringing that intolerable situation to an immediate close, and I say it can be done, and if no one else brings forward a resolution I shall do so myself, and it can be done without our taking any sides whatever either for the labourer or the capitalist. Therefore, I will be prepared to move—That this resolution be amended by striking out the word "labour" and putting in the word "social."

MR. HOBSON—I second that motion.

MAYOR BURRELL, of Grand Forks—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen: I would like to say that I still adhere to my original position. I think one very gratifying feature of this Convention has been the fact that it has listened to every discussion that has been brought up with every attention. My objection of this clause was that it excluded from the face of it the discussion of the labour problem. With all due deference to the gentlemen who proposed that clause I think they have brains enough to put a better one in its place. Mr. Hobson suggests that in their California constitution they did not touch upon labour at all, yet on the other hand he tells us they accepted grievances from the miners. I feel and still maintain that the committee which dealt with that business is capable of framing a better clause, and it is the right committee to modify or reform that resolution. If they cannot do this then we will bring in a resolution which will be satisfactory.

MR. WILLIAMS—I think if Mr. Smith Curtis would put an alteration to his amendment on this resolution, and add the words after the word "problem" "such as directly affect the mining industry" it would be better.

MR. BELYEA—We have had a very interesting discussion, and I think that now we might fairly put that clause back to the Committee on By-laws and Constitution. They have heard the views of this Convention, and they will re-model it according to those views, and it can then be considered with the report of the Committee on Labour Questions.

MR. LUGRIN—I second that motion.

MR. GALT—As one of the members of the Constitution Committee I desire to also place before you the views that occurred to me—in fact almost to all of us at the time. In framing this Constitution we were up against a certain difficulty. This question we would like to see admitted into the Association but we thought it would introduce so many acrimonious disputes that on the whole the better way was to rule out any such matters which would have a tendency to cause this ill-feeling. Now, I think that some of the gentlemen who have spoken on behalf of the mine unions and of the labouring classes have to some extent overlooked the work that has already been done by this Association. They seem to imagine that these resolutions were wholly in the interests of capitalists and mine owners, and that these gentlemen were working against them, and they themselves were

interested in nothing else but defeating the code of signals. Now, if these gentlemen will only look at this matter for a moment they will see every resolution concerns the working miner just the same as it does the mine owner. The removal of the two per cent. tax enables the properties to be worked, and every other matter which has come before you has affected the working miner—for instance, the removal of the objections as regards the titles to mineral claims and placer claims, and assisting the lead miners to develop their claims. They are, gentlemen, all of equal benefit to the mine worker as they are to the mine owner. They all come within the scope of the object of this Association as already defined. Now, after all, supposing this is a very important question, and owing to any particular circumstance it was thought advisable to cut it out, could it be said by any intelligent men who have watched our proceedings and are impressed by the success we have made; could it be said by any one of them that we have failed in our purpose in accomplishing any useful object which this Association has in view, simply because we have omitted one question from the discussion. I do not think any gentleman would say it was so. If we have managed to pass some seven or eight important resolutions we have certainly done some good, and our only fear as a committee was that if these labour problems and disputes between individual miners and mine owners were allowed to become a subject of discussion in this Convention our time would be taken up by innumerable disputes coming before us, and no real good would be affected. That was our object in framing this resolution, but we, of course, understood it was open to this Convention to alter anything which they saw fit.

MR. CHAIRMAN—You have heard the motion: One is that it lay over until we receive the report of the Capital and Labour Committee; the other is that it be referred back to the committee who drafted it.

MR. FLUMERFELT—Mr. Chairman. I might say as a representative of a company employing a very large number of men that I am in favour of the most free and open discussion. I think we ought to take this matter up in a calm, dispassionate spirit, and if possible arrive at some way of discovering some method of avoiding these troubles between capital and labour.

Moved by Mr. Belyea, seconded by Mr. Frank Richards, that Section 8 of Article 4 be referred back to the Committee and that they be asked to reconsider it with the aid of the Committee on Capital and Labour, and report to this Convention to-morrow.

The question was then put and motion carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—One of the main reasons of your having such a magnificent gathering here to-day is because the people—up in my country at least—believe that out of the work of this association some scheme might be evolved whereby capital and labour might come together without cracking their skulls.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Section 8 having been referred back to the committee, we will proceed with Section 9, and that is the last section of the constitution. (Reads.)

"Sec. 9. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Convention of the Association upon an affirmative vote of two thirds (2-3) of delegates present." Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—(Reads motion): "That Sec. 1 of Article 2 be referred back to the committee with a view of revising Class 1, so as to give the mine workers a class by themselves." Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—(Reads Order of Procedure): Shall the Order of Procedure pass?

It was moved and seconded that the Order of Procedure be adopted. Motion carried.

Adjourned till 8:00 p.m.

27th February, 1903, 8:00 p.m.

MINE TAXATION.

MR. TAYLOR—Yesterday there was a resolution moved by Mr. Smith Curtis and passed in a very hurried manner by this Convention, and I am sure after a further consideration of it you will not object to the slight change I wish to make in that resolution. The resolution reads: "That in the event of the repeal of the two per cent. mineral tax this Convention suggests and endorses as a proper basis for the taxation of working mines that a fair tax be levied upon net income."

I ask to rescind that resolution and to pass this one in lieu thereof: "That in the event of the repeal of the two per cent. tax, this Convention suggests and endorses as a proper basis for the taxation of working mines that a fair tax be levied upon the net annual income resulting from the product of the mine."

After a long discussion the motion was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF METALLURGICAL EXPERT BY GOVERNMENT.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I have to bring before your notice the resolution which was mentioned in the Report of the Committee on Resolutions. (Reads.) "And whereas, It is confidently believed that the refining and manufacture of many British Columbia mineral products can be profitably carried on in Canada, notably in the case of gold, silver, iron, lead and copper;

"Therefore be it Resolved, That this Convention strongly urge the Dominion Government to appoint a metallurgical expert of the highest reputation to investigate these matters and any collateral matters of affecting the mineral industry of British Columbia, and to report fully thereon."

DR. SINCLAIR—The Minister of the Interior some time ago made it his business to enquire into and search out the best man that could be found for that purpose. He has done so, and this gentleman is now waiting for instructions from people who require him not only from British Columbia, but all over the Dominion of Canada. He can be secured for the purpose of reporting upon any properties at the expense of the Government. This gentleman who has been chosen is a Canadian, a graduate of McGill, a graduate of Oxford, England, and a post graduate of the best institutions in the United States, and he is regarded as the best man in the whole of North America. He is said to be the best man to be found either in the United States or Canada, so that I think it would be unwise to ask for something that has already been accomplished. What I am telling you is perfectly true as the selection has been made, and I would say this, that this institution here should instruct the officers to communicate with the Department of the Interior in order to secure the services of this expert; that is the better course to pursue.

MR. TOWNSEND—The majority of the parties here knew nothing about this new appointment, but in any case the resolution can do no harm, because if this expert is to come here and he sees that there is a resolution passed by this Convention it may expedite this matter, and not let it lie over from month to month. If he has the whole Dominion to attend to I think if he is to come he should come here at once.

Motion carried.

FEE FOR CROWN GRANTING MINERAL CLAIMS.

Moved by Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Seaman—"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention the Government fee for Crown grant of a mineral claim when such grant is applied for by the locator and prospector, should be reduced from \$25 to \$10."

MR. CURTIS—In support of that resolution I wish to offer a few remarks on behalf of the class that are represented here, and for whose special benefit nothing has heretofore been brought forward. I refer to the chap who finds all the mines, and makes the least out of them—the prospector. Now, some three years ago the Crown grant fee on all mineral claims

was raised from \$10 to \$25, and it has proven a very great hardship upon the hardy prospector. The prospector, after all, is the pioneer of this country, who with a slab of bacon, and a sack of oatmeal and a sack of flour with which he makes bannocks, traverses the mountains and waste places, stems the mountain torrents, ploughs his paths over fresh trails, and when his grub is done lives on the fowls and birds of the air, and the fishes of the sea, and at the end of his trip, it may be weeks and it may be a whole season, he goes to the assayer, and too often his samples average very high in iron and very low in copper, gold and silver, and sometimes too often finds he has only one per cent. copper and occasionally he finds he has only got a trace, from that down to zero, and his hopes go down accordingly, but I am happy to say that the prospector, like every sensible miner, and every sensible mines never gives up—he is full of hope, and so he goes up again the next week or the next month or the next season, and lives the same old story over again—perhaps for a lifetime. We know in the City of Rossland that the biggest gold and copper mine in British Columbia, the Le Roi, was bartered away by the prospector for \$12.50 to record the other claims that he found. Now, we should do something for him, I am sure. I had purposely refrained from asking that the Crown grant fee be reduced to the man who buys the prospector's claim. I do not say it ought to be reduced, but I think it ought to be reduced to the prospector, and I think \$10 is enough. As a matter of fact the man who buys the claim is generally very much better able to pay the Crown grant fee than the prospector. He has hard work to pay his large certificate fee, and occasionally through some slip he has to put up \$100 in lieu of his work, and it may be safely said in any event the prospector, even with a \$10 fee, pays more per acre to the government for his land than the promoter. The mineral claims will not average more than 25 to 30 acres each, and under this \$25 Crown grant fee it means on an average \$1 per acre, and so he pays a great deal, and when he comes to pay his certificate dues there are \$5 or \$10 more, so that the government never gets less than \$2 to \$3 per acre out of the prospector. However, I ask you here to-night unanimously to say that we have some consideration for the prospector, and ask the government to reduce this fee from \$25 to \$10. If you do that I have hopes—high hopes—that the legislature of the land will take it into consideration and grant the consideration to the prospector to which he is so justly entitled.

The motion was carried.

THE PREVENTION OF "WILD-CATTING."

MR. BELYEA—This resolution is unsigned, and it is the only resolution that is in the hands of the committee. If the gentleman is here to-night who sent it in will come forward we will now consider it. (Reads motion.)

"Resolved, That the Government should by prosecution or otherwise, suppress fraudulent statements regarding mining properties in British Columbia, made with a view to inducing the public to buy shares in such properties at outrageously exaggerated prices. Such governmental action will have a beneficial effect upon the legitimate mining and give the investing public much greater confidence in British Columbia mines."

MR. A. E. HOWSE, of Nicola—That is my resolution. I have much pleasure in moving it.

MR. CURTIS—I second.

MR. HOWSE—I would like to explain my reasons in bringing this forward. I have felt since this organization was first started that it was wise and in the interest of the mining industry of this Province we should place ourselves on record as being opposed to any means by which the public might be misled by the statements of fraudulent and treacherous schemers. I have been in the East, Montreal, New York, Toronto and other points in the last few years since the mining operations in British Columbia have reached their present state, and I have been met at every point with the assertion that British Columbians are the biggest mining thieves in the world. Now, I do not believe that this mining Convention

here to-day possesses one man of that stamp, but we have been abused by those who have gone to the people in the East and have succeeded in attracting money into fraudulent mining schemes, and if we can succeed in showing these people that we are honest in our efforts to build up this mining industry and are not a party to that kind of fraudulent scheming with which they have come in contact, it will assist in strengthening our case in Eastern Canada, and it will prove to them that this body is one which despises anything in the way of wild-cattling and other questionable practices. (Hear, hear.)

Motion carried.

LOCATION OF MINERAL CLAIMS IN RAILWAY BELT.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It is moved by Mr. Curtis as follows:—

Whereas, The Government of British Columbia has found it good progressive policy to make a free gift to the locators of mineral claims on unoccupied provincial lands, not only to the minerals therein, but also the use of the surface for mining purposes.

And, Whereas, within the railway belt in British Columbia the Dominion Government charges the locators of mineral claims \$5 per acre for its right to locate claims.

And, Whereas, for every dollar of revenue derived from provincial sources by the Government of British Columbia, the Dominion Government collects \$3 of revenue from the people of British Columbia.

And, Whereas, any increase of revenue from British Columbia will come largely from the growth of the mining industry, which requires and deserves fostering care and help of both governments.

Therefore, Be it resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention it is the duty of, and good sound financial policy for the Dominion Government to follow the example of the Provincial Government and grant free to the mineral claim owner, upon his approved application for Crown grant, all the mineral, water, and surface rights vested in the Dominion.

Seconded by Mr. Wolfenden.

MR. CURTIS—The Provincial Government in 1871 granted to the Dominion Government a belt of twenty miles on each side of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the Coast to the territorial boundary in the east. Now, within that forty-mile belt, known generally as the railway belt, if the miner locates a claim, and does his \$5 assessment work, just the same as he would do on provincial Crown lands, he becomes entitled to any mineral rights the Province has in the lands, and the most right the Province can have in the land is the right to the precious metals—gold and silver. The best measures, gold, copper, etc., together with the surface rights and the timber are all vested in the Dominion Government and there is an arrangement between the Dominion Government and the Province that upon the locator of the claim paying \$5 to the Provincial Government of which \$3 goes to the Dominion Government, he is entitled to his Crown grant from the Province for his right to the precious metals, and the Dominion Government thereby gives up its right to the land. That resolution, when it is sent to the Dominion Government, will impress upon them strong reasons for changing its policy in that respect. I consider that it is unfair that our Provincial Government should only collect about \$1 out of the people of British Columbia, whereas the Dominion Government gets \$3. You will see what a hardship it is upon the prospector, after he has done all his work, after he has got his right to the mineral and surface rights (where he would get his rights under our provincial law) that he has to hand over to the Dominion Government, which is taking out of this Province enormous sums of money, \$5 more an acre. I am sure you will all agree with me that that is a great hardship and drawback to the mineral development of the railway belt. There is in that belt enormous deposits of payable ore, and yet they are hardly touched. And why is it that this railway belt is not opened up? I believe it is largely on account of that \$5 per acre charged to the prospector.

After a lengthy discussion the motion was carried.

GOVERNMENT OWNED COAL AREAS.

MR. CHAIRMAN—There is a resolution which has been handed up. It did not come through any of the committees, but I will read it to you:

Moved by Mr. Heidman and seconded by Mr. Hazelwood, of Phoenix—

Resolved, That the coal measures now held in reserve by this Province be opened to the public under such conditions that the Province retains supervision and small royalties on the product.

MR. HEIDMAN—I might state that the reason for offering this resolution is that not only that the mine owners and mine prospectors are affected by the reserve, but it affects all branches of mining in this country. We have heard statements made by the mine manager of several large companies, who hold the power in their own hands, that they expect to increase the capacity of their smelters to such an extent that it will require at least two to three times more fuel to operate these smelters than it does at the present time. Yet, we are confronted with this situation. A great amount of these coal lands is held in such a manner that no steps can be taken to furnish this amount of coal to our own smelters. For that reason I have moved the adoption of that resolution. We want the production of coal increased, and the resolutions which have been planned here, we want all these put in operation, and the result will be that not only the business of mining will be encouraged by it, but the business of the merchants and the labourers will be enriched by it. I think there are thousands of acres held by the E. & N. Co. under the report of your government mineralogist in which there are valuable deposits of coal that are required to supply this deficiency. If we keep these lands under reserve and do not let anyone get on them for a number of years it means a great deal of delay in the working of these mines, and before these smelters can be kept going. I think now is the time to ask the Government to throw open these lands as they may see fit and proper and get these furnaces in operation and these coal mines in operation, and let thousands of more laborers have employment in keeping the smelters going. It is an important branch of every mining industry, and this resolution should be passed without one dissenting voice.

MR. BELVEA—Will the mover of that resolution kindly tell us what coal measures are referred to?

MR. HEIDMAN—I particularly refer to the coal measures in the eastern section of British Columbia, particularly the Crow's Nest, and where there is an average thickness of 100 feet of coal deposits underlying the surface. This is actually known to exist there, and we are dependent upon one system of mines for all our mining and smelting there.

MR. BELVEA—I understood those coal measures over there outside of the Crow's Nest Company belonged to the Dominion Government. With the usual generosity which is characteristic of the governments of British Columbia they have given away all that. The mover now has explained that is the coal land owned by the Dominion Government.

MR. LANGLEY—I think the coal measures which this gentleman has reference to are those in the south-eastern part of the Province. They are held under reserve by the Provincial Government, and have been for about thirteen years, and it starts north along the international boundary. That is what the gentleman refers to, and I would further suggest that in that resolution the oil should be mentioned as well as coal.

MR. BARNES, of Slocan—I believe that this is a motion which has been moved in the right direction. The Government has undoubtedly vast coal reserves, and on the other hand we have in the Crow's Nest Coal Company a company operating mines, and which supplies vast quantities of coal to our smelters. The condition which prevails at the present time tends in a great measure to set me thinking as to what is

to be the outcome of this condition as it stands at present. These men have had the power to paralyze all the industries throughout the lower portion of this Province—the Boundary, Trail and Rossland—and it reaches as far over as Washington, and it seems whenever they feel disposed they can shut down their mines and smelters and thereby throw hundreds of men out of employment, and in that way create a hardship which should not prevail. I have talked with a great number of men throughout the country, and I have heard this thing discussed very strongly, and it was their opinion that the Government should be urged to open up this vast coal reserve. I tell you, my friends, for the information of this Convention, that it would pay the Provincial and Dominion Governments to open up these coal reserves at their own expense and keep them in readiness, even if they never put a fire in them. Then should a strike, such as now prevails at Fernie come about, we can say: "Here, we will have this thing settled, and right away, or we will start these ovens." In the meantime they could keep the mines working along just enough to pay expenses, and they would lose nothing by it. You will say it is a socialistic movement; and so it is; but if we cannot get just conditions any other way let us have it from socialistic movements, and we will then know that the Government is capable of handling such an extremity, if it is necessary to do so. We have experimental farms, and why not let us have experimental coal mines? (Hear, hear.)

MR. HEIDMAN—Mr. Smith Curtis, who desired to speak upon this resolution, is ill this evening, and in justice to the importance of the measure, I would ask that you adjourn the hearing of it until Mr. Curtis can be heard from. I therefore move that it be laid upon the table until to-morrow morning.

Motion carried.

The Convention then adjourned till 9:00 a.m. 28th February.

28th February, 1903, 9:00 a.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I received a telegram from Ottawa last night, gentlemen, which is as follows: "Telegram received endorsing resolution in the interest of silver-lead miners, referred to Privy Council." (Sd.) R. W. Scott.

The minutes of the preceding day's business were read and adopted.

MR. D. W. HIGGINS—I would move in place of Mr. Spicer, who was added yesterday to the Victoria delegation, the name of H. G. Scott. Mr. Spicer finds it impossible to be here.

Carried.

"LABOUR PROBLEMS."

MR. CHAIRMAN—As you will recollect, one of the sections of the constitution was referred back again to the joint committee. Section 8, if you will recollect. It reads as follows: "This Association shall be non-political and shall have nothing whatever to do with labour problems or interfere in any way with labour unions." That was referred back to the Committee on Constitution and By-laws with the request that they act jointly with the Capital and Labour Committee. They report as follows:—

"Your Joint Committee on Capital and Labour and Constitution and By-laws beg to report.

JAMES REID,

Chairman of Constitution and By-laws.

JAS. W. BOLDEN,

Chairman of Capital and Labour Committee.

The recommendations are as follows: Section 1, Article 29—That no change be made except that the word "Treasurer" be added after the word "Assistant Secretary."

The recommendation was adopted.

The next section is Article 4, Section 8—"This Association shall be non-political, and shall not permit discussions in any of its Conventions or meetings on social problems; nor shall it interfere in any way with labour unions; *Provided*, however, that the Association shall be at liberty to use its good offices in adjusting and settling mining labour difficulties."

The recommendation was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Shall the Constitution and By-laws pass as a whole?

MR. HAGGAN—I beg to ask that Section 1, Article 2, be reconsidered. Several of the members think that there should be two vice-presidents.

Mr. Bolden seconded.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Shall the Constitution and By-laws be adopted as read? Carried.

Moved that a vote of thanks be hereby tendered to the Committee on Constitution and By-laws. Carried.

SENATOR REID—On behalf of the Committee I beg to thank your Committee for your kindness.

MR. C. DUBOIS MASON, of Atlin—Mr. Chairman: I wish to address this meeting for a few moments. I think we are rushing these matters through, and we are in danger of having the whole thing changed. I represent Atlin. Now, in your Constitution you say that the subscriptions shall become due on 1st January, and you propose to hold your Convention somewhere about this date. Now, between the 1st of January and the date of this Convention we hold our meeting in Atlin to appoint our delegates. Now, gentlemen, if you appoint midwinter I would like to know how it will be possible to get delegates sent from Atlin at that time owing to the transportation difficulties, and our English and New York capitalists could not be present at that meeting. If it goes as it stands now this constitution will be unworkable.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I think the gentleman is out of order. It was clearly the desire of this room that the Constitution and By-laws be adopted. It is clear to my mind that it has met with uniform approval by every gentleman in this room, and as such I do not think it is open for you to criticize it.

MR. MASON—I move that the clause be reconsidered generally. You said it was not necessary to move that, and therefore I had no option to go into it.

Moved by Mr. Heidman, seconded by Mr. Hodge, of Ferguson, that this Association hereby ratify all previous acts of the Convention before the Constitution and By-laws were adopted.

The question was then put and motion carried.

LEGISLATION AND THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

MR. GALT—I would like to move a resolution. I might mention while Mr. Hobson is here I would like this to be considered. He is anxious to go away on other business and he will second the motion:—

"That having regard to the laxity which has heretofore prevailed in the Legislature of British Columbia in the enactment of laws affecting the mining industry and the serious difficulties occasioned thereby, and having regard to the widely representative character of the Association, and the fact that it includes within its membership many of the most competent authorities in this Province to advise upon all matters affecting the mining industry. This Association do respectfully urge upon the Government and Legislature of British Columbia the advisability of enacting that no legislation whatever affecting the mineral industry or any branch thereof shall be introduced unless the same has been approved by this Association, or unless the Association has been given a reasonable period not less than three weeks within which to consider and advise upon such intended legislation."

One of the most important features of this Association will be from time to time to make recommendations to the Legis-

lature with regard to legislation. We all know that in years past, especially during the past two or three years, no end of trouble has been occasioned by the introduction suddenly and without proper consideration of matters affecting the mining industry, and in various branches of it. Statutes have been amended in important particulars without any notice given to any of the parties affected thereby. It is needless to mention any of the acts, because we know there have been several of them. Now, we are undertaking in this Convention to ask the Government to amend and repeal certain existing legislation, and what we want to do in order to continue this good work, and to ensure for this Association the consideration which is desired, we want the Government to pass an Act that they will consider us to that extent that they will not introduce legislation, either amending existing laws, or introducing new laws without first enabling this Association to consider that legislation and criticize it as they may feel disposed. I do not think there is a single man in this Association but would approve of that course. We have amongst us all the mine owners; we have amongst us all the mine workers, and the mercantile community, and the farmers and ranchers, and smelting men, and what possible better body of intelligent men, experts on all questions affecting the mining industry could the Legislature deal with and ask advice of than this Association?? (Hear, hear.)

MR. HOBSON—I second the resolution.

MR. SEAMAN—Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates: You have heard the resolution just read. As I told you yesterday, we have all come here for the welfare of British Columbia. Now, it is a question—I do not want to get personal—it is a question whether we are here for the benefit and welfare of British Columbia. We are asked to endorse this resolution, a resolution which says that the Parliament of British Columbia cannot enact any laws affecting the mining industry unless they are recognized by this Mining Association. It does not touch upon the labour question, and it seems to me that the idea of this Convention is to do away with all questions affecting the labouring class or unions, and there is nothing in that resolution that pertains to labour. I am going to ask you if that is fair or just? If this Convention wants to support that I do not think it is a just measure, and for God's sake, gentlemen, let us do away with this tomfoolery, and not keep beating about the bush. We have been here long enough, and I am satisfied we could have transacted all the business that has come before this Convention by this evening. Now, gentlemen, I will not support this resolution as I feel certain it is not for the welfare of British Columbia. I do not know what your humble opinion is. Some gentleman who is not interested in mining, I would ask that he would make some remark in regard to this resolution.

MR. GALT—Mr. Seaman is quite mistaken in the object of that resolution. It is not asking the Legislature to pass legislation affecting any particular law without our approval; it is merely asking that they give this Association a reasonable notice—three weeks' notice—to consider the proposed legislation affecting the mining industry and to criticize it and offer any suggestions that the Association might think necessary.

MR. LUGRIN—I would ask that this resolution be laid on the table.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS—I think that the Legislature of this Province should refer mining questions to this Convention to consider. It is quite impossible for a single individual to go down to the Legislature and represent his views and for the Government to adopt them; but here every one's views can be represented, and I think that is sufficient evidence that this is a very good resolution.

CAPT. THOMPSON—I second Mr. Lugin's motion.

MR. HOWSE—I notice in the remarks that Mr. Seaman has made he seems to feel legislation in regard to labour questions might affect labour unions. As a disinterested party I would like to say that I feel quite firmly convinced that the labour organizations of this Province are thoroughly protected by

the men whom they select as their executive here. We have fifteen representatives of the labour people, and I may say that the professional men are certainly favourable to the labouring class, and the farmers, merchants and others who form that class of 15 on the executive are certainly an impartial body to pass upon anything that might be brought up before the Legislature and I think if this matter is considered by the labour organizations they will feel that they have the best end of the stick.

MR. CHRIS FOLEY.—Being a labour unionist, I must say that I differ somewhat from my colleague here. I believe that the labouring men, as well as the manager, should be prepared to have publicly discussed every question of this kind. I believe, as Mr. Galt says, that it is not advisable to rush matters of this kind through. I believe that it is necessary these questions should come before this body, and that they should take some action upon it, and give the Government the benefit of their experience and knowledge in these matters.

MR. MARSH—I must confess that on the first reading of this resolution I was a little opposed to it, but from the explanations which have been given by the various people, I must say that I heartily endorse it. We have had, I think, a little too much legislation put up on the spur of the moment, and any legislation affecting the mining industry coming before the House I think the people directly interested in mining should have a few weeks to consider it.

CAPT. LIVINGSTON THOMPSON—I think we are absolutely out of order. There is a motion that this resolution be laid on the table. Speaking to that, I wish to point out the great benefit derived last evening by having that clause laid on the table.

MR. HIGGINS—The gentleman may be fully in order, but I think it is really incumbent upon the mover to give some reason why it should be laid on the table.

MR. LUGRIN—I made that motion because I thought it was the sentiment of the Convention not to discuss it, and it was best to dispose of it in the best possible way, but to come down to the merit of the resolution I may say that I think this is a dangerous resolution, and this is the last body in the world which should set such a precedent as is proposed by this resolution. If this resolution is going to take the position that no legislation shall be introduced relating to mining interests, unless it is passed upon by this Convention, and until it has been discussed by the Association, why not let the grocers meet and pass such a resolution; why should not the labour organizations meet and pass such a resolution?

A Voice—So they should.

MR. LUGRIN—You say, so they should. Then what becomes of our representative institutions? What becomes of government responsibility? Where should the responsibility rest if this should be the case? What we want in this country, and what we have too little of in this country, is responsible government. The great trouble in times past is that the Legislature has not felt the responsibility which has rested upon it as a representative institution of this Province, and the great trouble in the past is that they have not felt the responsibility which rests upon them under the circumstances. You say to the Legislature, and you say to the Government, "You are not to enact or pass upon any law affecting the mining industry until you ask this body to discuss it and give their opinions on it." That is the principle you initiate in this resolution, and I say, gentlemen, if you put this resolution through it would be the end of responsible government. Emergencies may call for urgent legislation, and what is going to happen if the Government is forced to give this Convention three weeks' notice. It is an unusual resolution. We are now within less than five weeks of the meeting of the legislature. We expect the Government of this country to prepare mining legislation and we expect to see something done in regard to mining legislation, and yet we are going to ask this Government to give us three weeks' notice in advance for the purpose of considering any questions which may arise

calling for legislation, and until this body has had time to meet together and has had three weeks' time in which to consider these questions the Government would be powerless to act. Why, gentlemen, there would be an end of responsible legislation in this country if such a resolution was adopted.

The motion was laid on the table.

MR. HUNTER—I beg to present the petition of working miners. I propose that this be read and put upon the minutes of this Convention. I would like to say in regard to this petition of mine, that I am not aware as to whether there is any machinery put in the By-laws with respect to petitions, and the usual method adopted is that the receiving of petitions is always put first on the Orders of the Day. I ask that this matter be considered. (Reads.)

PETITION PRESENTED BY JOSEPH HUNTER, M.P.P.

Stanley, B.C., Feb. 10th, 1903.

To the Provincial Mining Association, assembled at Victoria, B.C., February 25, 1903.

We, the miners of Cariboo, beg to present the following petition by our delegate, Joseph Hunter.

Whereas, at a meeting held in Barkerville, February 10, 1903, to elect delegates to your Convention, John Hopp, F. C. Laird, and H. E. C. Carey were elected.

Resolved, That said Barkerville delegates do not represent the miners or their sentiments.

Resolved, That contrary to the views of said delegates we are strongly opposed to the granting of Crown grants for placer holdings, we believing that the same would be detrimental to the interests of all miners.

Resolved, That a better title be given placer leases by the assurance of a renewal of the lease on expiration, said renewal to be on the terms and conditions of the original, if so desired by the lessee.

Resolved, That considering the fact that mineral and placer propositions are usually equally costly to develop, and that it costs as much or more to develop a placer lease as a mineral claim; that therefore they be placed on an equal footing as regards cost of holdings and annual work required and that of development.

To all of which we free miners of Cariboo subscribe:

(68 names subscribed to the above petition.)

150-MILE HOUSE.

That according to the report of a public meeting held at Victoria, B. C., on January 15th last, one of the chief objects to be obtained as an inducement to capitalists to actively enter these fields is the securing of titles or Crown grants for placer leases, we, the members of the 150-Mile House branch as represented by those present at the meeting, do endorse most unanimously such a proposal, providing that due care be taken to ensure substantial qualifications for such title on similar lines or equivalent to the qualifications necessary for obtaining a Certificate of Improvements under the present Land Act in order to guarantee as far as possible the continuous working of leases or Crown grants. As a valuable guarantee of this we would suggest that in every such deed a clause should be inserted providing for heavy taxation in the event of ground so granted being unworked during any portion of the mining season. It is also the further unanimous opinion of this meeting that under no condition whatever should titles be issued on the qualifications of one or more leases of a consolidation for other leases outside or beyond such consolidation, and furthermore that no consolidation should ever be permitted to exceed eight adjoining leases as at present allowed for in the consolidation clause of the Placer Mining Act.

It is also the opinion of this meeting that everything possible in the way of legislation and otherwise should be done to encourage the *bona fide* prospector.

The meeting then closed.

ROBERT BORLAND, *Chairman*.

KEITHLEY, SNOWSHOE.

Resolved, That we, the miners of Keithley, Snowshoe and vicinity, are in favour of placing the acquirement of title to placer mines on the same footing as mineral claims.

Resolved, That we are in favour of the repeal or amendment of the Water Clauses Act, so that the prospector, individual placer miner or mineral miner can secure the quantity of water required to operate his claim or claims by simply recording the same and without having to pay the heavy charges now made for securing water privileges.

And Be It Further Resolved, That we are in favour of the repeal or abolition of the two per cent. royalty on gross product of either mineral or placer mines, that we are in favour of paying a tax on the net income of either mineral or placer mines, said tax to be levied and collected from the owners of real estate or from the net income of bankers, merchants, manufacturers, individuals, corporations, or capitalists, and we hereby instruct our delegates, or their proxies, to present these resolutions to the Provincial Mining Association and vote for their adoption at the Convention to be held on the 25th February, 1903, Victoria B.C.

G. A. VEITH, *Chairman*.

KEITHLEY, 1903.

Keithley Branch of the Provincial Association.

Resolved. 1. That in the opinion of this meeting no change should be made in the present Placer Mining Act from Section 1 to Section 89 inclusive.

2. That the annual rent and amount of money to be expended yearly on the placer mining lease is too high.

3. That \$200 expended annually in actual development work and an annual rental of \$25 would be ample.

4. That the holder of five or less placer mining leases may consolidate the same and do all the actual development work of such leases on one of them provided the said leases are immediately adjoining.

5. That the holder of such placer mining leases may obtain a Crown grant of same by expending in actual development work yearly and paying an annual rental of \$25 for the period of five years in each lease, or the holder of such leases may obtain a Crown grant of same in one year by expending the sum of \$1,000 in actual development work and paying \$125 rent for each lease.

6. That the Crown granting of placer mining leases shall not exempt the holder thereof from the proper working of same or from the payment of an annual rent.

7. That two per cent. on the gross output on mineral and placer mines be abolished, and a tax be put on the net output.

8. That any person doing work in any way connected with the development of mineral and placer mines be compelled to take out a license for same, and said license to be collected only after such person has worked one month at such work.

9. That fractional licenses be granted only to legal holders of mining property in the Province of British Columbia.

Whereas, It has been known for over thirty years last past that the districts of Yale, Cariboo, Omineca and Cassiar (now including the Atlin District), include vast areas of high grade auriferous gravels suitable for profitable operation by the prospector, individual miner or mining investor.

That the Placer Mining Acts in force for many years last past have failed to encourage either the prospector, individual miner or investor to enter the great placer mining fields of the Province, and have acted as a bar to the development of a great deep placer mining industry which would ensure the employment of thousands of prospectors and miners, the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars, the increase of the annual gold product by millions of dollars, and the circulation annually of millions of dollars for labour and through the channels of trade and commerce, besides adding new gold to the wealth of the Province and nation.

And Whereas the Water Clauses Consolidation Act has proved objectionable and prevents the individual mineral and placer miners from securing the quantity of water required to operate their claims or mines at a cost within their means.

And Whereas, the two per cent. royalty on the gross output of the mine has proved most unsatisfactory to the mine operator and to the intending investor.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, That claims usually called deep placers, including all forms of deposits excepting veins of quartz or other metalliferous or valuable mineral rock in place, shall be subject to location, entry and Crown grant under like circumstances and conditions and upon similar proceedings as are provided by the Mineral Act for vein, lode or mineral claims.

That the Water Clauses Consolidation Act be so amended as to enable the prospector, mineral and placer miner to secure the quantity of water required to operate his mineral or placer mine by simply recording the same instead of being compelled to pay the high rates now charged for water privileges, which charges are entirely beyond his means.

That the two per cent. royalty now charged on the gross output of mineral and placer mines be abolished, and placed upon the net proceeds of said mines.

And Be It Further Resolved, That the Executive Committee of this Association be and they are hereby authorized to prepare bills intended to remedy the above defects complained of in the Placer Mining Act, the Water Clauses Consolidation Act, and the Revenue Acts that include the two per cent. royalty clause, and present the same at the next session, and urge upon Parliament the necessity for the adoption of the remedial legislation required to encourage the development of the vast mineral and placer mining resources of the Province.

And We Hereby Instruct our delegates to present these resolutions to the Convention to be held at Victoria on the 25th day of February, 1903, and to vote solidly for the adoption of the same.

Bullion Branch of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia.

(Signed)

H. B. FERGUSSON, *Secretary*.

J. B. HOBSON, *President*.

Dated Bullion, B.C., Feb. 10th, 1903.

MR. McMILLAN—I beg to ask that this motion be laid on the table until other matters of the placer mining be brought up for discussion.

MR. HUNTER—I may say that that is not the rule governing petitions. It is usually respectfully received and spread on the minutes of the Convention.

MR. TAYLOR—What possible objection can this gentleman have for the laying of this petition on the table until the other matters are discussed. That is a fair proposition and why should we not support it?

The motion to lay on the table was carried.

MR. HOBSON—Would it be unfair on behalf of the miners of Cariboo to ask Mr. Hunter to present all the instructions that he received from other parts of the Cariboo district? Stanley only represents a very small section of it.

MR. HUNTER—I would like to know what Mr. Hobson means; does he want me to answer him?

The Chairman ruled both speakers to be out of order.

MR. HUNTER—Why have I not the right to reply to Mr. Hobson?

MR. CHAIRMAN—You are out of order.

MR. BELYEA—Mr. Chairman, I move that the interim report of the Committee on Resolutions be taken from the table to consider the clause of the resolution relating to boiler inspection, which was laid over yesterday.

MR. GOBELL, of Greenwood, seconded the motion.

THE BOILER INSPECTION ACT.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The matter which was laid on the table is this:—

"3. The present rules adopted for calculating the strength and safe working pressures of boilers are unusually and unnecessarily severe, and these rules should be altered to conform to general engineering usage in Canada and the United States."

A Delegate—I think this is a question for experts, and not for us to discuss, and I think it should be eliminated from that resolution. If this question bears unjustly on those interested it should be remedied. It is not for this body to pass upon.

A Delegate—We want to know how that act is unjust, and on what grounds they base their statement.

MR. EMERY—I move that all of that clause on the expert opinion be struck out, as we are not competent to judge, and that is the reason I express the opinion it should be struck out of that amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Section 3 is the only one which refers to expert opinions.

A Delegate—I move that 2 and 3 be both struck out.

MR. LUGRIN—One of the points in that resolution was very fully discussed. That is in regard to accepting the certificate of insurance companies. I remember that was very fully brought before the Legislature and the Legislature did not accept that view.

MR. HUNTER—I think this is a most dangerous proposition. When that bill was under discussion in the Legislature the discussion was very full indeed. It occupied a great amount of time, and the Legislature took every opportunity of consulting the best experts in the country to get every information possible before they passed that bill, and the bill was passed solely in the interests of the working miner. I do not think it would be well on the opinion of any one in this Convention to abolish that Act, or to suggest to the Legislature what it should do. The question of insurance by insurance companies was another matter which was very fully discussed in the Legislature, and it was clearly and distinctly shown to adopt the course such as shown in that bill would be detrimental to the mining interests in this country and to the best interests of the public generally, and I think it would be well if this Convention voted against that proposition.

MR. KIRBY—I would ask as representing one of the mining companies which has suffered severely from the operation of this Act to explain some of the peculiar effects of the Act. I do not know how many of the delegates present are owning and operating boilers. It is probable that those who are owners and operators are doubtless in the meeting here. Of those who own and operate mines, only a percentage of those probably have had occasion to investigate this Act, and to enquire into its peculiar effects upon our business, and upon the capi-

tal we have invested in boiler plants. I will explain what we have found in Rossland as regards the operation of this Act. We have investigated it partially, and we find that its provisions are more severe than any which are in use in any of the other provinces, or in the United States. Now, it so happens, as you are well aware, that the boilers in use here, and especially those in use in the mining industry, are brought principally from Canadian or United States manufacturers. They were manufactured under the laws which prevailed at that time for calculating the working strength of boilers, and in their construction were made safe as considered by the present engineering practice in Canada and the United States. These plants were bought in good faith, and are now in operation and form part of the invested capital here in this Province. We now find that the Legislature has passed an Act in which no large boiler user that I have been able to discover has ever been consulted, or even given an opportunity to express an opinion. If they sought expert opinions we were unaware of it until after the Act was passed, and now we find an Act was passed which contains the most severe articles applying to the boilers which we bought in good faith, and which now destroys the value of those plants. I will illustrate what occurs. I may say in Rossland, speaking of our companies, we have a large plant, a \$55,000 plant and some \$11,000 worth of boilers to run that plant. These boilers were bought partly in Canada and partly in the United States from leading manufacturers. They have been passed by the leading insurance boiler inspectors on the continent, allowing the full working pressure, which in this case is 130 pounds. Now, the new rules suddenly come along, and cut down that pressure to 100 pounds. We find that another large mining company in Rossland has had its plant destroyed suddenly by the cutting down of their pressure from 130 to 100 pounds. The inspectors had doubtless done their duty and they were forced to act in accordance with these provisions of unusual severity. Now, as far as our companies are concerned, we had there some \$66,000 worth of machinery, which, in order to comply with the new regulations, had to be run at a terrific expense, and we had to use and get such equitable plants as we could borrow or lease, and keep our own plant idle in order to avoid this terrible expense. There are other cases, and I may say that it is unfortunate there can only be a few of these boiler users represented in this assembly. I confess that I fully understand and recognize the fact that in speaking to you about these technical points it is at a disadvantage, as I am taking up the Convention's time on questions which are technical, serious as they are to us. I realize that the Convention is not in proper shape to judge of the specially peculiar features of the Act, even if we get the Act and read it, and only a few of us engineers and users would be competent to judge of its evil. Therefore, while I intend to support the motion that is made, and while I am in favour of it, I beg leave to submit an amendment to this motion, and having substituted the following, I take it that it will remove the objections which have been raised to this question in this assembly: "To recommend to the Legislature to enquire and investigate the Act once more with a view to improving its operations, and in doing that invite the opinions of boiler users and owners before doing so."

MR. ROLT—I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The amendment is:—In view of the fact that there is much dissatisfaction amongst the owners of steam boilers, as to the provisions of the Boiler Inspection Act, which is claimed to cause unnecessary hardship, and since a large number of these boilers are in use at the present time, the Government and Legislature of British Columbia are requested to investigate this Act with a view of improving its operation, and that to this end they invite the views and opinions of those who own and operate boiler plants."

MR. HAZLEWOOD—I believe that the whole objection to this Act is the safe working pressure of the boilers. I might state that engineers have found this Act to be the same as it is in the United States, and the steam working pressure is

identically the same, and I hope that this Convention will take no action on that resolution, as the boilers are just where they belong.

MAYOR DEAN, of Rossland—I am an agent for the Hartford Insurance Company, and while I have the interest of that company at heart, I have the interest of British Columbia at heart to a far greater extent, after that the interest of the mining industry. (Hear, hear.) And after that the interest of the Hartford Boiler Insurance Company. In that capacity I may be accredited as having a slight knowledge and some idea of the operation of the Boiler Inspector's Act, and I might say that the insurance companies give a far greater and better protection to the companies by their service than the province for this reason: The moment they insure the boiler they have a monetary interest in that boiler, and before taking any insurance at all they have a complete and internal inspection of the boiler by experts, the best they can get, and these experts give a certificate of their inspection to the companies. In that way they give a better service than it is possible for the government inspector to do. There is no gain-saying that fact, and I may say this, that the manner in which you can reach the wishes of all concerned, to do it fairly and protect the interests of those working around the boilers, is to have an inspector general for the Province of British Columbia, who would be prepared to ascertain the qualifications of the different insurance companies' inspectors, and give them a certificate, so that they would be regularly authorized inspectors, and report to the Government just the same as they do to the company every quarter, and give a fac simile report as that returned to their company and the mining company, and it would show that all those three reports were in order and exactly alike. Now, the inspector general of the Government could ascertain the condition of every boiler in the Province, and make regular reports to the Government. At the present time it is much more expensive to avail themselves of a government inspector than an inspector for an insurance company, but under this new law this would be remedied by having an inspector general for the Province. I hope I have made it clear as to the advantage of having an inspector for the Government, who would be an inspector over the insurance company's inspector.

MR. GODELL—I may say that we have experienced the same difficulty that Mr. Kirby mentions, and that gentleman before me who spoke is the first man who claims to be an engineer that I ever heard say the law was unusually severe. I, for one, am perfectly willing to leave this matter to the engineers and the men who work around the boilers. It has been said here that the miners' lives are in danger. As a rule the miners are a good way from the boilers, and I feel sure that this subject should be taken up by the Government, and if they are afraid of passing hasty legislation, let them leave it to the men who do the work about the boiler.

MR. WOLFENDEN, of Armstrong—I may say that we have boilers up in our country. Our company employs three engineers, and they are all satisfied with the Inspection Act. There have been over thirty boilers inspected in our district, and every one who has anything to do with the working of boilers is perfectly satisfied with the Act, and because a few gentlemen have bought a boiler that won't stand the pressure we cannot help it.

MR. GALT—I am not an expert, but I would like to tell you a little of what I know about the operation of this Act. In the case of the Le Roi mine, the first inspection under this new Act cost that mine as large a sum in fees as would have enabled them to insure their plants for over \$50,000. That of itself shows what a very substantial matter we are talking about now. The extra cost put upon that company at the very first inspection of their boilers would have given them an insurance of over \$50,000, and, as you understand, the Government inspection gives them absolutely no insurance at all. Now, gentlemen, there is a company in which I have been somewhat interested, and that is the Velvet mine. I will tell you what occurred there. The manager came in to me, and

he asked me where the inspector of boilers was to be found, and I told him he was at Nelson. He told me that a very trifling imperfection has arisen in his boiler, and that the engineer in charge was a competent man, and quite competent to mend this, and there were plenty of men competent to mend it, but under the Act the boiler could not be mended without the presence of the government inspector. We sent a telegram to Nelson, and a telegram was received that the inspector was to be found at Kamloops; we telegraphed to Kamloops and the answer came back in five or six hours saying he had left for Vernon. We telegraphed to Vernon, and we received word that the inspector had gone out a few miles distant, and he would be back shortly, and after many hours of waiting and telegraphing two or three times, it was found the inspector had come back to Vernon very hurriedly, and not knowing anything about this matter he left for Revelstoke. So we tried again, and we had more than one party endeavouring to find this inspector, but somehow or other we could not get hold of him at Revelstoke, so this mine was closed down—a mine employing 60 or 70 employees—for about a week in order to comply with this Act and have the presence of the inspector or someone appointed by him. Now, will anyone say that an Act of that nature does not require a little touching up?

MR. GAUNCE—Just one observation, and that is this: It seems to me there is no hardship to anyone in that substitute motion of Mr. Kirby's, and if this Act is satisfactory to the working man, and if the Government has been so competent in giving them an Inspection Act so satisfactory to them, surely it can be trusted to look into it further again, and see if it can improve it in any way. It seems to me that we have all got to this point that no further instruction is necessary, and therefore I request that the amendment that all boiler owners should be consulted be now taken up.

The amendment was carried.

MR. PEARSON, of Chemainus—This is the first time I have got up to speak in this Convention. I believe that the Government had the best expert opinion that they could get on this Inspection Act. We have boilers all through this country. You hardly have a hotel that has not got a boiler in it. Before this Boiler Inspection Act was passed you had boiler explosions, and what have you to-day? You very seldom hear of a boiler explosion, and I believe there are a good many men in this assembly who do not realize what they voted for on that amendment, for the simple reason they cannot realize the meaning of it. There may be a few big mining concerns who have all these inspectors and lawyers to look after them that are not in favour of this Act; but if you stop to consider what this Act means I believe you would reconsider that amendment, and you would vote it down.

A Delegate—I ask for a reconsideration of the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It is open for this Convention to rescind any motion, but there is no motion before the house.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A Delegate—Mr. Chairman. I beg to move that this Convention proceed to the nomination and election of officers.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It was so understood, but the order that you have adopted in your Constitution and By-laws makes that the last item on the order.

MR. HIRSCHFELD—I move a suspension of the rules to take up the election of officers.

MR. DEAN—I think there is one thing that should be done in connection with the election of officers. I move that the whole Province be divided into five sections in order that each of those sections may have a representative of each of the different classes on that Executive Committee, and that those districts be joint sister districts—so to speak—so that the members can get together, and find out who they desire to be represented on that executive.

Mr. CHAIRMAN—There is a motion before the Convention. Moved by Mr. Hirschfield, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the rules be suspended, and that we now proceed to the election of officers. Carried.

Mr. HAGGAN—I have much pleasure in moving that Mr. Keen be appointed as President of the Convention.

Mr. HIGGINS seconded.

Mr. CHAIRMAN—I would much prefer to take a more subordinate position, and ask Mr. Hobson. He is the organizer of this Association and Convention, and I think he should have the honour of being its first President; so if you will permit me to take a subordinate position. (Cries of "No, no.")

Mr. GALT—I have much pleasure in moving that Mr. J. B. Hobson be appointed our President for the coming year. Those who have had the pleasure and opportunity of knowing Mr. Hobson at this Convention will realize how much we all owe to him. Mr. Hobson was one of those gentlemen who met originally to organize the California Miners' Association; he has ever since been an active member of it, and he has given this Association the benefit of his experience and connection with that association. He has been, as our Chairman has said, the leading spirit in getting up this organization. I need not say that he does not covet any such a position as this at all, and has so stated to many of us repeatedly.

Mr. TAYLOR—I desire to add to the remarks of Mr. Galt a few words. I was here in Victoria when this institution was first moved, and I say to you, gentlemen, it is due entirely to the recommendation and effort of Mr. J. B. Hobson that we are here to-day, and it would be to my mind a matter of regret if we did not give due honour to him for what he has done for this Province as a whole.

The Chairman, Mr. Keen, vacated the chair in favour of Mr. Higgins.

Mr. KEEN—I wish you would reconsider that motion, gentlemen. I will do all I can to help you in any other way, but you would confer a distinct favour and compliment on me if you would give this position to my friend, Mr. Hobson.

Mr. DAVIES, of Kaslo—I wish also to second the nomination of Mr. Hobson. I am from Kaslo, and think the gentlemen here from the big votes that they have given to Mr. Keen have amply satisfied Mr. Keen's ambition.

Mr. BELYEA—I would like to say this to this Convention that I have been thinking of this since the opening night. I happened to be the chairman of the original committee, and I know what Mr. Hobson has done for this Association. You all know what Mr. Keen has done. I have known Mr. Keen longer than I have known Mr. Hobson, but I want to say this, that had it not been for the energy of Mr. Hobson in organizing this Association and calling together this Convention, there would not be, this year at least, any such gathering as we have had in Victoria the past week. He has done it absolutely without any object except that of bettering the conditions of the mining industry in this country, and in giving him this position, gentlemen, it is no more than he is justly entitled to. So, gentlemen, let us elect him for our President for the ensuing year, and let it be unanimous.

Mr. SEAMAN—With all due respect to Mr. Hobson, and even granting him the privilege of being the father of this Convention, there is one thing in this Convention you seem to have overlooked. Mr. Hobson came like lots more. He has come here to ask favours. Now, gentlemen, for God's sake, get someone who does not want favours. Let us have some impartial chairman who is not working for anything, and then we will get a fair deal all around. I am not questioning Mr. Hobson's sincerity, but at the same time I think it would look better to have some one President of this Association who is not asking the Government for anything.

Mr. SMITH, of Vancouver—I never met Mr. Keen to him as I have met him here. I know Mr. Hobson,

and know he is a thoroughly good man, and has the interests of this Association at heart, I know he is most sincere. I believe, gentlemen, the honour is due to Mr. Hobson as the organizer of this Association and this Convention, but, gentlemen, I believe at the same time, in putting someone in who does not represent half as much as Mr. Hobson does, we can do more to make this thing stick, and it will be more satisfactory to everyone interested in this mining business. There is no one who would prefer to see Mr. Hobson act as our President more than myself; but I do not think he can satisfy every man in the mining industry to the same extent as Mr. Keen.

Mr. HAGGAN, of Revelstoke—As mover of the original motion, I might say a few words on this question. I come from a part of the country where all respect Mr. Hobson. But one of the objections which we have to meet with in the election of Mr. Hobson as President is just this: Mr. Hobson represents one idea—the idea of Crown granting the placer claims. I believe, therefore, in proposing Mr. Keen that I was doing what was in the interest of the Association in eliminating that objection, and in that way doing something which would put this Association on a permanent and proper basis.

Mr. ROLT, of Rossland—I beg to propose an amendment to that motion, and I ask that Mr. Keen be nominated as President and Mr. Hobson as Vice-President.

Mr. HIGGINS—That is out of order.

A Delegate—Mr. Chairman, I appeal against your ruling.

Mr. C. DUBOIS MASON—I beg to move that the Chair be sustained.

The question was then put and motion carried to sustain the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. SCOTT, of Revelstoke—I have much pleasure in seconding Mr. Rolt's amendment that Mr. Keen be President and Mr. J. B. Hobson, Vice-President.

Mr. HIGGINS—Possibly a second Vice-President will be appointed, because there are duties cast upon the Secretary and Treasurer here which can only be discharged by a Vice-President who is a resident here, so I hope that you will provide for a second Vice-President whose residence will be Victoria. The question was then put in favour of the amendment, which amendment carried in favour of Mr. Keen.

Mr. HEIDMAN—I move that the election of Mr. John Keen, as President of this Association and Mr. J. B. Hobson as Vice-President be unanimous. Carried.

Mr. KEEN (Loud applause.)—There is no time to waste, gentlemen. All I have to say is that I am very sorry that you have not taken my advice, and elected me as your Vice-President; but inasmuch as you have not taken my advice I will endeavour to do as much for you in the future as I have for my town in the past. Those who know me thoroughly, gentlemen, always know where to find me. Those who don't know me, I don't care about, and in future you will find me precisely the same with each and everyone of you as I have been in the past, and I would ask you to elect an executive in whom you have absolute confidence, and having done that I say leave your affairs in their hands absolutely, and if at the end of the year you are not satisfied with them turn them out in good fashion, and elect others. If you leave an executive who feel when you are gone that they are in touch with you, and you have full confidence in them, you will get three times more out of them than if you worried them. You must realize the full force of that, but I feel sure, gentlemen, before the end of the current year you will realize it. Now, some gentleman has suggested we make an amendment to the Constitution, with a view of providing a second Vice-President.

MAYOR DEAN, of Rossland—I made a motion that the Province be divided into five sections. It is most important that this should be done. I think you will all agree that the different sections should have representation, and it is the only way to arrive at that representation, by dividing the

Province into four or five sections, so that each section can have a representation of each of those classes.

Seconded by Mr. Lugin.

MR. HIGGINS—Don't you think we ought to proceed in the order of business laid down here? We should proceed next to the appointment of a Secretary.

MR. C. H. ARUNDELL, of Hedley—I move that Mr. Belyea be elected as Secretary.

MR. WOLLEY—This is a question of nomination, and I have great pleasure in nominating your Provisional Secretary, Mr. Mortimer Lamb, and I will reserve to myself the right of speaking to my suggestion when all the nominations are in.

Seconded by Mr. Astley, of Phoenix.

MR. HIGGINS—I have much pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr. Belyea, K.C., as Secretary.

It was moved and seconded that Geo. Macdonald be nominated as Secretary.

MR. GAUNCE—I move that the nominations do now close. Carried.

MAYOR BURRILL, of Grand Forks—As there are three nominations before the House, and I think we all would regret to see any wrangling on this fact, I think that we all recognize that the position of Secretary is a most important position, and for fear there would be any clash I would ask that there be applications called for the position.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I suggest that there being three names they should be balloted for.

MR. CLIVE PHILLIPPS-WOLLEY—I wish just to say a few words as to why I proposed Mr. Lamb's name as Secretary. In the formation of this Association you appointed provisional officers, and it seems to me that having appointed Mr. Lamb as your Provisional Secretary it would be almost equivalent to a vote of censure now if you appointed anyone else to be Permanent Secretary. The man has been tried, and has done the vast burden of the work which has fallen on the Provisional Secretary during the last month. He has devoted his whole time to it. First of all, as Provisional Secretary he has done the greater part of the hard work which has resulted in this magnificent Convention which you see before you, and I am going to quote your own words. You said that what you wanted as Secretary was one who would be able to devote his whole time to the work, and be able to visit the different districts of the mining constituencies, upon which this Association must depend, and this Mr. Lamb is able to do. Now, gentlemen, Mr. Lamb has one thing in his favour which no one else in this Association has. Perhaps when you have been looking over mining articles and statistics, you never took the trouble to inform yourselves as to who prepared all these. Who do you suppose prepares those statistics and prints those articles? It is Mr. Lamb, and whenever I want to know anything directly or indirectly affecting the mining industry I always have to go to him, who is always able to supply me with the necessary information. He is the man who is able to publish the best mining paper we have in the Province: recognized by all the leading men of the world, and yet he is not a man who can speak when he gets on the platform. Now, if you appoint another Secretary a gentleman who has not had this training for many years, who has not been Provisional Secretary, the first thing he has got to do is to pick up all those strings which are in Mr. Lamb's hands. Mr. Lamb is a man with more intimate knowledge of the matters which are of interest to this Association than any other gentleman we can choose. More than that, if you appoint anyone else as a Secretary you have to introduce him to the mining world. You have not got to introduce Mr. Lamb to the people of British Columbia, or to the investors in London. At the present time Mr. Lamb is supported by one of the largest mining investors in your own country. I do not think I am committing any breach of faith when I tell you that his paper is referred to

in London as not only being an accurate but an eminently honest one, and another point in his favour is this, that he is not associated with any political body.

MR. KEFFER, of Anaconda, also spoke strongly in favour of Mr. Lamb's candidature.

...otion seconded.

The votes were then cast by ballot. The gentlemen whose names were before the Convention to act as Secretary were Messrs. Mortimer Lamb, A. L. Belyea, and Geo. B. Macdonald.

The result of the ballot being taken was as follows: Mr. Belyea, 66 votes; Mr. Lamb, 64; Mr. Macdonald, 28.

It was moved and seconded on an invitation being extended to the Convention to go for a drive this afternoon by the Mayor, that the invitation be accepted. Carried.

A Delegate—I ask the ruling on the point as to whether the lowest count does not drop out, and the balloting be continued? (Cries of "No.")

SENATOR REID—I suggest that the gentleman who obtained the second highest vote should be chosen as Assistant Secretary.

MR. LAMB—I beg to decline the honour, but still if the gentlemen present recognize that I have done good work in the interests of this Association, I would very much like to ask a favour of them. There is here a gentleman who has assisted me in my work as Secretary; he has done excellent work, and I can vouch for him being entirely trustworthy. I do not know that he is known to many of you, but he is known to most of the Atlin delegates at least as a man to be depended on. The gentleman to whom I refer is Mr. Mostyn Williams, and I would ask that you nominate him as your Assistant Secretary.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The only nomination that I have heard is Mr. Mostyn Williams.

MR. BELYEA—If the gentlemen will excuse me for a moment I do not wish at all to interfere with the selection of this Convention, but Mr. Williams is not decided whether he can accept that position or not. As far as Mr. Williams is concerned I do not want any better helpmate than Mr. Williams, but I think if you had elected Mr. Mortimer Lamb as Secretary of this Association you could not have made any mistake. I have worked with Mr. Lamb for the last few weeks, and I know the work he is capable of doing, and I want to pass this compliment to him, that the Provisional Executive could not have got a better man to do the work than Mr. Lamb. (Hear, hear.)

M. Williams here said he would accept the nomination, and he was unanimously elected Assistant Secretary.

MAYOR BURRILL, of Grand Forks—I would like to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Mortimer Lamb, the Provisional Secretary, for the work which he has done in the last month.

Seconded.

MR. BELYEA—I would like if this Convention had voted something a little more substantial. Mr. Lamb has done a work which has taken up the greater part of his time for the last five weeks. He has done it well, and I do not think that a vote of thanks is out of place, gentlemen, but I do hope that this Convention will see its way clear to put in the estimates a sum sufficient for the Provisional Secretary.

MR. GAUNCE—Following the precedent established in the election of President, I move that vote of the Secretary be passed unanimous. Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It has been moved and seconded that a very hearty vote of thanks be extended to Mr. Mortimer Lamb for his untiring assiduous efforts in the work which he has done, and which has brought to a climax the gathering of this magnificent Convention. You will all realize the amount of time and thought and attention which such a work

requires, and I am sure you will vote him a very hearty vote of thanks for the work he has done. Carried.

The next nomination—Treasurer.

MR. SMITH, of Vancouver—I have much pleasure in nominating for the position of Treasurer Mr. Campbell Sweeney, a man who has the confidence of every man in this Convention and outside of the Convention—the gentleman has been called away, but before going he assured us that he would do the best he could to help this matter along. I have much pleasure in nominating Mr. Campbell Sweeney.

Moved and seconded that Mr. Mortimer Lamb act as Treasurer. Mr. Lamb declined.

Moved by Mr. Mortimer Lamb, seconded by Mr. Lugin, that Mr. A. B. Fraser, Sr., be elected Treasurer.

MR. BELYEA—It might not be out of place to state on behalf of Mr. Fraser that from the inception he took a deep personal interest in securing the necessary funds for the furthering of this organization. A great many of you cannot realize the amount of work which devolved upon the Secretary and quite a few members of the Executive Committee. When I tell you that 35,000 letters went out, and we had a staff of from fifteen to twenty at work for about twenty days, and all the printing and everything of that character had to be looked after, you will be able to form some idea of what the work was, and whenever any money was wanted Mr. Fraser always had it for us, and it was due to his personal efforts alone that we had these funds. Outside of the City of Vancouver, and a few gentlemen who gave very liberally from outside points, the bulk of the funds were subscribed in Victoria. Although the Treasurer is not here for the moment, I may say that the total cost of calling this Convention together is something near \$2,000. I think by the time we get all our bills in, it will be very close to \$2,000, and of that amount \$1,500 was raised in Victoria. That meant the payment of the accounts and keeping everything in first class shape, and all this work fell upon Mr. Fraser, and I am satisfied that as a worker of the Association that you could not have a more trustworthy gentleman than Mr. Fraser.

MR. HIGGINS—I can endorse every word that Mr. Belyea has said about Mr. Fraser, as to the part he has taken in bringing us together, and forming this Association. I have much pleasure in supporting the nomination of his position as Treasurer.

MR. FRASER was elected to the position of Treasurer by a unanimous vote.

MR. A. B. FRASER—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen: I beg to thank you very greatly for what you have just accomplished. I am not a miner, but as a citizen of Victoria I have realized the importance to this Province of the mining industry. When this movement was first started I joined in it with the greatest pleasure and I have contributed my services to the furthering of this work, and it has been a labour of love. I thank you, gentlemen, for the unanimous way you have appointed me Treasurer, and I will do my best to work in your very best interests for the coming year. Up to the present there has been a great deal of expense attached to the work of organization and getting everything in readiness for this Convention, but we have been very fortunate in securing the necessary funds, and a great deal of them has been distributed in making you feel that you are welcome to this Convention. We all hope that you will go away thoroughly satisfied with the week you have spent in this City of Victoria. I can assure you it has been a great pleasure to have you with us. (Applause.)

MAYOR DEAN—May I ask is that motion which I made some time ago is now in order?

MR. CHAIRMAN—The next business of the meeting is the selection of the Executive Committee.

MAYOR DEAN—I would ask when my motion will come up which I made some time ago?

MR. TAYLOR—We considered that in committee. A very difficult thing has arisen. We have gone to the trouble of dividing the committee in classes. The gentleman now wants to divide it again into divisions of the country. Let us now trust to the delegates here to see that we get a representation from the different parts of the country.

MAYOR DEAN—I may say that it would be a very difficult matter indeed to arrive at the representation satisfactorily unless it is divided into sections. If you have a committee formed of President and Secretary of the different delegations to bring in the report as to the division of the Province into sections, for instance, Rossland and the Boundary might form and represent one section, Slocan and Ainsworth another section, the Lower Mainland another section, and the Island and district another section. Now, what is to interfere with the Boundary delegates getting together, and saying who is the best for their section. A great confusion will arise unless you adopt a system of that kind.

MR. GALT—While this resolution is being handed up, might I make a suggestion. It is coming very near to the time when we will adjourn to go for a drive this afternoon. It seems to me that we have ample time in the interim to select and discuss those candidates without any formal resolution. The gentlemen from Nelson, Rossland and Boundary are here. We are all in the smelter circle comparatively speaking, and we can meet together, and nominate as far as we can the best gentlemen we can recommend. I am quite sure, having come to the determination whatever it is—supposing Nelson and the Boundary select who they wish to represent them, I am quite sure that this will be acceptable to this Association.

MR. TAYLOR—In explaining one of the difficulties I would ask you to take Class 1. Is it right we should dictate to that class that they must elect their representatives from all over the Province of British Columbia? Should they not be permitted to elect their representatives from Vancouver or near the headquarters? Why should we be compelled to take a man from Cariboo who by reason of the very distance and expense would not be able to come here?

MR. SEAMAN—In the appointment of the committees previously to this, it was left to the chairman of this meeting. If the feeling of this meeting is that you show confidence in our present chairman, I would ask that you leave the appointment of this committee to him. I merely make that suggestion.

A Delegate—I think that is too much of an imposition on our chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN—If you will allow me to make a suggestion. If each of the delegates here will select one of their number to confer with one selected by all the other delegates, then I will be able to come down to business in very short order. If one individual delegate from each delegation were to assemble together, I think they would have no difficulty in arriving at some conclusion, and I would suggest that you do that in the recess.

MR. ROLT—I rise to support the suggestion my friend Mr. Galt made just now. The most important part being that the time is getting somewhat brief and this is too important a matter to decide before we meet this afternoon. He suggested that during that time that the delegations from the various parts of the Province would be able to get together and consult together on the plan which they intended to adopt. I think if this was thoroughly agreeable, it would be found more or less acceptable to all of you.

Moved by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Lugin, as follows: That the Province be divided into five sections, for the purpose of getting a fair representation of the different classes, and that the delegates of each section be asked to make their respective selections.

Moved and seconded that the meeting stand adjourned till 4:00 p.m. Carried.

HON. COL. PRIOR—There are a great many people in Victoria—I have been spoken to by several—who are anxious to do all they can to make the visit of this delegation pleasant, and they have asked me to find out whether you are going to sit this evening. There are several dinners being given for the members of the delegation, and they wanted to find out whether you were going to sit this evening. If the Association is going to sit, then they will make an hour for the dinner at a certain time.

Moved by Mr. Gaunce, seconded by Mayor Burrell, That this Association do now resolve itself into five sections consisting of the five classes named in Section 1 of Article 2 of the Constitution, each section to nominate five men of its class that shall constitute the Executive Committee, and report at five o'clock to this Association for ratification.

MR. GAUNCE—Mr. Chairman. I make this motion, as in my mind it is the simplest way of getting a representative body of men on the Executive, and getting every section of the Province adequately represented. The five classes could meet in different parts of the room. They can get acquainted with each other and the various parts of the Province, and the best men to represent to be represented on that Executive and can choose from them.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

On the meeting called to order the following gentlemen were elected as follows:

Class One—Miners and Prospectors.

Boundary, Rossland, Similkameen—Mr. Harry Seaman.

Slocan, Lardeau, Kamloops—M. McAndrews.

Lower Mainland and Coast—Chris Foley.

Vancouver Island—B. J. Pearson.

Cariboo, Atlin, Omineca—Mr. F. Dockrell.

Class Two—Mine Managers and Mine Owners.

Silver-Lead—Leslie Hill, Nelson.

Copper—Edmund B. Kirby; Henry Croft, Crofton.

Placer—William Brown, Revelstoke.

Coal—John H. Tonkin, Fernie.

Class Three—Smelters.

H. C. Bellinger, W. H. Aldridge, A. C. Flumerfelt, A. J. Godell, J. J. Campbell.

Class Four—Business and Professional.

S. S. Taylor, Nelson; A. C. Galt, Rossland; A. E. Howse, Nicola; J. C. Sweeney, Vancouver; L. W. Shatford, Fairview.

Class Five—Farmers and Others.

Clive Phillipps-Wolley; T. Borland, Cariboo; Mr. Delworth, Okanagan; John McLaren, Vancouver; M. Lehman, Ashcroft and Kamloops.

MR. MACHIN, of Victoria—Mr. Chairman, in view of the duties that confront us, in the selection by this Convention of the President and Vice-President, we find that it is barely possible, owing to the fact that our worthy President lives in Kaslo, and our Vice-President may possibly be in Cariboo, to do without a second Vice-President. This present condition of things may seriously hinder the business of the Association, and I therefore move that the rule be suspended, and that you consider the amendment which I have offered to Section 1 of the Constitution, by inserting the words "Second Vice-President," in the second line thereof, after the words "Vice-President." For obvious reasons it must be apparent to every member of this Convention that such a contingency must be provided for, and it will certainly not need any argument on my part to see the wisdom of at once taking this action.

Motion seconded by Mr. Curtis and carried.

MR. MACHIN—I may say that the Second Vice-President's residence should be in Victoria on account of the headquarters of this institution being here.

MR. SMITH CURTIS—I understand that the motion is now carried, and I have very great pleasure in proposing the name of Mr. Ashby, manager of the Scottish Copper Company, as the Second Vice-President.

Mr. Foley's name was suggested as Second Vice-President.

MR. HAGGAN seconded Mr. Curtis' motion for the nomination of Mr. Ashby.

MR. KING, of Vancouver—I nominate Mr. Hammersley.

MR. FRASER—I nominate Mr. Henry Croft.

MR. TAYLOR—Mr. Chairman, we all recognize the fact that we can make a great many appropriate nominations and we could have fifty vice-presidents, all of whom would be acceptable to this Convention, but there must be a limit to the nominations.

MR. FULLERTON—I suggest Mr. Higgins for Second Vice-President.

Dr. J. T. Jones seconded the nomination of Mr. Higgins.

MR. CHAIRMAN—There are two nominations, Mr. Ashby and Mr. Higgins. You know, of course, the main object why this has been done, I, as you know, live in Kaslo, and our Vice-President lives in Cariboo, and therefore it is absolutely necessary that one gentleman with executive power should live in the city of Victoria.

MR. TAYLOR—I move that we put in these words: "Who shall be chosen from the local organization in Victoria."

MR. HIGGINS—If the honour falls upon me of being made Second Vice-President I would like it to come from the whole Convention. I could not accept the appointment of a section.

The question was then put and Mr. Higgins was unanimously elected Second Vice-President.

MR. HIGGINS—All I can say is that I thank you most sincerely for the splendid compliment you have paid me, and I will add that I will try to do my duty, and when you meet here next year I think you will find I have not been remiss.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I have much pleasure in introducing His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and I will now call upon him to address you. (Loud and continued applause.)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR (Sir Henri Joly)—Mr. Chairman, Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I have followed in the papers, which were of distinct interest, the work which has been progressing since you have met together. I think nothing is more hopeful for the future of British Columbia than the feeling which has inspired you to meet here together. I think everyone who takes an interest in the Province must welcome the happy feeling which has collected here together such a splendid representative body of men, upon whom we must rely, more than on any other, to develop the resources of the Province, and to bring about that bright future which every British Columbian has a right to expect for this Province. I have listened with very great interest to the ideas and opinions of your Association, and I may say, gentlemen, it is the happiest feeling that can come to men who are engaged in the same work to meet together. I hope that the result of this meeting will be what we all most wish for so earnestly. There is a feeling, as it were, of sadness, in seeing so much wealth lying, as it were, dormant, so much wealth that Providence has placed in our hands, and remaining there until the heart and hand of man will work together with the view of taking out the treasures that have been placed there for our use and benefit. I hope, gentlemen, that as a result of your deliberations here to-day much good will result. I did not expect to have the honour of addressing you this evening, and you do not expect a long speech from me; but I think you expect from me what you have all got alike to expect from me in the position which I have had the honour of being placed in in British Columbia, and that is, gentlemen, my warmest sympathy for your work. I hope you may all join hands together, no matter what different interests you represent, and that the result of this meeting may be the opening of a new era of prosperity for British Columbia. I do not say, gentlemen, that all such difficulties which must naturally arise where interests are so varied and so different, will be forgotten—quite the reverse—I hope that they will be remembered with the honest purpose of finding means to put an end to those difficulties—(Hear, hear)—and if you all work bravely together and honestly together, I hope that Providence will bless your efforts. I thank you, gentlemen. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Moved and seconded that we receive the report of the Committee on Capital and Labour.

The Chairman reads report:—

REPORT OF THE "CAPITAL AND LABOUR" COMMITTEE.

Victoria, B.C., Feb. 28, 1903.

To the Provincial Mining Association.—

Gentlemen, Your committee beg to report that it duly met and organized by the election of Mr. J. W. Bolden as chairman, and Mr. Brownlee as secretary. The committee has had several meetings, and canvassed the subject matter intrusted to it, and unanimously agreed to recommend to this Association its passage of the following:

"Resolved, That the Government of British Columbia be and is hereby requested to forthwith appoint a commission of three members, whose duty it shall be to examine as fully as possible into the existing relations of employer and employee engaged in the mining industry in this Province, and to gather data on the question of capital and labour therein employed; said commission to meantime be regarded as a consultation board in any mining labour troubles that may occur, with a view to the settlement and prevention of such trade disturbances."

MR. GAUNCE—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen. I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of this report and the resolution therein contained.

MR. BOLDEN, of Victoria—I have much pleasure in seconding that report. Possibly it may not meet with the approval of all the labour delegates who are assembled here at this Convention, yet I heartily believe it is the best that can be done under the circumstances. No doubt some will think that we should put in some suggestion about compulsory arbitration. I for one believe in that principle, yet at the same time I do not think that this Mining Association should adopt any such principle at all, nor yet is it desirable. In the last few months this question has been discussed from one end of the Dominion to another. Mr. Mulock has now proposed to bring in a bill dealing with that question with regard to the railway industry, and, as I say, that question has been discussed from one end of the Dominion to the other and I am fully agreed that 75 per cent. of the trade unions of this Dominion have turned it down. They cannot endorse the principle at all as laid down by Mr. Mulock, as they believe that it is class legislation. Now, if we take the same stand, we are simply enacting something which only pertains to one industry. If we wish to have compulsory arbitration it must apply to all classes of industries. There are certain clauses about this report which are very good, and there is one objectionable feature, and that is the selection of that commission. We believe—at least, those who have considered the matter since—that that commission should be a more representative one, and should be one man picked from the labouring class, and the other from the mine owners, and the third party from those parties who have been selected. I think some amendment to that motion would be well, if some gentleman will move it, and I think it would meet with the approval of the labouring community of this city, at any rate, and I fully believe, with the opinion of the labour delegates assembled at this Convention. I think the time has fully arrived when disputes such as we have had in the last couple of years in this Province will be brought to an end. I believe if this Association takes this matter in hand that the measure will be successful in the Legislature if brought up, and I hope some gentleman will take this matter up and push it to a successful conclusion.

MR. HEIDMAN, of Phoenix—This is indeed a subject of special interest to one of the classes, without which the system of mining would stand in no condition to-day. It seems to me that it is a proper subject at this time for this Convention to consider and suggest or reason together to see if there is some method whereby we could overcome the situations that are at present confronting us in British Columbia. It is indeed a sad state of affairs when one institution can be the closing down of their mines affect over 50,000 of the peo-

ple of British Columbia depending upon that particular industry. It is a question of vital interest to both sides, and now is the opportune time for you, gentlemen, representing all those different classes, to reason together. I do not give this in the spirit of enmity towards the mine owners, the miners, or anyone connected with the mines. Personally I have no grievance, and receive just consideration from my employers, but the case remains before the public and reflects this injury upon the people. Now, can we not reason together, and suggest some means to overcome such a situation. Is it not our duty to do this? It is a question which must be grappled with some time and firmly stamped upon, and can we not assist our government with our opinion, or with our reasoning at least, and show them our ideas as to how we can master such conditions as these, so that we can have them under control. Let this feeling exist uniformly, and let it be said that strikers are no longer to exist in British Columbia. The labouring men don't want strikes, and the mine owners don't want them to strike as a rule, but there are exceptions to the rule, and I do not believe in the innocent carrying the burden of the guilty, and a very few who stand in the position to place this position upon us. The recommendations that have been made by this committee have been in such a way that it really does not solve this problem. This resolution is merely an assumption that the Government can control this by legislation—that the law-making power can control this situation. If they cannot we are in a very sorrowful and pitiful condition indeed, to have a government of the people that cannot control the actions of the people. Every industry in this country is dependent one upon the other, and to destroy one is to destroy them all. Unity is strength, and why not be united in solving this? I have some idea towards solving this problem. I have great and fond hopes if such questions arise that there is a method of arriving at a just and correct conclusion. My idea was a board of arbitration that would compel either party where it was necessary to go to arbitration to accept the result of that board of arbitrators. My idea was that such a condition could not exist under such a board, the details of which we do not need to go into at this time; but we can reason among ourselves and see as clearly as possible that those mine owners could be held in abeyance, and the business would not be crushed down during the continuance of these disputes. Now, gentlemen, we are here representing these different branches, and we have this Association to help us. We have been confronted with this condition of affairs for some time past, and we will have these same things to look after in the future, and we want now if possible to solve this question, and do it in such a way that there will be no friction between capital and labour. If we do that the result will be that the industries of the country will not be stricken down. Gentlemen, I hope you will do something towards solving this question, and I would ask that you make some recommendation if possible. If you do that, gentlemen, I think that this Association will have accomplished at least one of the greatest objects, and one which represents more capital than all these questions which we have already disposed of, and is of more interest to the mining labourer and to the citizens of this country and the business men in general than any other question which you can probably introduce. Let us make a start in this direction and see if this problem cannot be solved.

MR. GAUNCE—This matter was entrusted to a committee of ten, which has spent considerable time over it, and this committee was all unanimous in presenting this resolution in the idea that this was the extreme to which we could go at this moment. We are barred, I think, in going any further, by the Constitution, and I therefore hope without very much further discussion that the question will be submitted to vote.

The report was adopted.

MR. FOLEY—I desire to introduce a substantive resolution that will correct some of the effects pointed out by the first speaker:—

Resolved, That the Government be respectfully requested to

constitute said board of conciliation by appointment of the following:

- (a.) One practical mine manager.
- (b.) One practical mine worker.
- (c.) A chairman mutually agreed upon by the other two.

This board shall have the power to collect information under oath, and its further duty shall be to make prompt report from time to time to the Minister of Mines, through whom the press and the public may be informed of the situation.

Carried.

The Convention adjourned till 9:00 p.m.

MR. SMITH CURTIS—I propose three cheers for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which were given with enthusiasm.

EVENING SESSION.

THE FERNIE STRIKE.

MR. HAGGAN, of Revelstoke—I have a proposition here, which I think is one of the most important which will come before this Convention, and I would like to ask your permission to put it now. As you know, at the present time we have existing one of the most serious conditions possible affecting the mineral industry, and if this Association can do something to right the wrong it will do something which will never be forgotten, and which will do much to make this Association a grand success. I am referring to the Fernie colliery strike. I have reason to believe that if this Convention appoints a delegation to visit this strike, this strike can be settled in a very short time, and the mining industry is going to be placed in a very serious condition unless this strike is settled. I therefore move:—

"That a delegation consisting of the Chairman, Gaunce, Keffer, Flumerfelt, Seaman, McAndrews, Foley be appointed to proceed to Fernie to meet the management and employees of the Crow's Nest Coal Company and endeavour to bring about a settlement of the strike; and that the expenses of such delegation be paid from the funds of this Association."

You will observe, gentlemen, in this proposition I have endeavoured to recognize the two main interests in this Association, the interests of the employer and the interests of the employee. I propose these gentlemen, Messrs. Gaunce, Keffer and Flumerfelt and our chairman, because I have every confidence in them, and those who know them know that they are fair and capable men, and it will be no fault of theirs if an arrangement is not arrived at which will be satisfactory to all of us. Those gentlemen will represent the mine owners or employer. The men representing labour are Messrs. McAndrews, Foley and Seaman. We all know that these gentlemen will look after the labour interests, and will do everything in a fair spirit which tends to bring about a settlement. I have therefore much pleasure in moving this resolution, and I hope it will be unanimously supported by this meeting.

MR. GILMAN, of Vancouver—I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It has been moved by Mr. Haggan, seconded by Mr. Gilman, that a delegation consisting of the chairman and Messrs. Gaunce, Keffer, Flumerfelt, Seaman, McAndrews and Foley, be appointed to proceed to Fernie to meet the management of the Crow's Nest Coal Company and endeavour to bring about a settlement of the strike, and that the expenses of such delegation be paid from the funds of this Association.

MR. FULLERTON—I would like to say a few words in reference to this motion. It is apparent to every one of us present that a motion was presented to this meeting by Mr. Foley in order to urge upon the Government the appointment of a commission to enquire into any strike that may arise between capital and labour. It seems to me that that motion can be effectively put in force by the Government. While I probably disagree with some gentlemen on that point, I am not against this motion provided that some result comes from that in reference to bringing it before the Government. I do not think if this committee is appointed to go there that that would be the end of their mission. I believe in the event of the incorporation of the other resolution asking the Government to take this matter up that the other committee should not be disbanded if it fails in its mission.

MR. EMERY—As one of the committee that brought in the motion referred to, I think it would be a very good thing, and I think would help things along very considerably.

The motion was carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The resolution is a good one—a very good one; but like most of the resolutions of its character it requires the sinews of war. Mr. Hobson informs me that there are no funds in the treasury, and I suppose if we choose to assess ourselves before we go home we are perfectly at liberty to do so, so if some gentleman will think about it during the next hour or so and he evolves in his brain a method of raising funds, I, for one, will take the responsibility, which is no light one, and will promise to go.

MR. ABERCROMBIE, of Lillooet—As one of the delegates of the district of Lillooet I wish to claim your attention for one moment. I have so far refrained at this meeting to speak or even attempt to say anything on the various subjects that have come up for discussion, leaving them to be dealt with by older and wiser heads than mine, but when it comes to a matter affecting the interests of the district to which I belong, I feel that I would be neglecting my duty in not saying a word in regard to the representation we should have on the executive board. We have in the district of Lillooet rich placer grounds, rich and productive farms, and rich quartz claims that compare favourably with any other part of British Columbia. At a large and enthusiastic gathering of the people of the district held some time ago for the sending of delegates to this Convention with a view of guarding the interests of the miner, the mine owner, the merchant and the farmer, Mr. D. Hurley and myself were delegated to come down. Mr. Hurley represents the mine owner because he is interested in the same, and the miner because he works in the mine to make her yield up hidden treasure, and also the merchant and farmer because they sent him here. I therefore would like to have an opportunity, if not too late, of having Mr. Hurley placed on the executive board as a representative of the mine owners and mine operators. I think we should have some representation from the district of Lillooet. We have been overlooked entirely, and this is the first time during this Convention the name of Lillooet has been mentioned?

MR. CHAIRMAN—What is your motion?

MR. ABERCROMBIE—That Mr. D. Hurley, of the district of Lillooet, be placed, if possible, on the executive board representing the mine owners and mine operators of the district of Lillooet.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Well, there is no vacancy to fill. What the gentleman wants is representation on the Executive Committee for Lillooet, but there is no vacancy. They have all been filled by the various classes and I do not see that this meeting can help you in any way.

MR. ABERCROMBIE—It depends entirely with the meeting.

MAYOR BURRELL—I think we all as a meeting understand the position of the gentleman from Lillooet, and I think that he should feel that he has the sympathy of all the delegates, but his interests will be carefully guarded notwithstanding the

oversight that has been made. We feel that every district has the warmest sympathy of the Executive Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I will explain it this way. As I represent no constituency, if that gentleman would kindly write me an official letter from his constituency I would take care it would be looked after. I have a report from the Committee of the Placer Mines, which is as follows:

REPORT OF THE PLACER MINING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman.—

"Your Committee on Resolutions referring to the placer mining industry, have carefully considered all the resolutions presented for consideration, and most respectfully beg to submit the following substitute therefor and recommend its adoption:

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, Sections 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, of Part VII. of the Placer Mining Act, should be repealed, and the Act be so amended as to read as follows:

"1. That claims usually called placers, including all forms of deposit, excepting veins of quartz or other metalliferous or valuable mineral rock in place, shall be subject to location, entry and Crown grant under like circumstances as are provided in a general way by the Mineral Act for lode or mineral claims.

"2. That every free miner shall be entitled to locate and record a placer mining claim on any creek, bar, bench, hill or plateau, on any unoccupied and unreserved Crown land, and he shall be allowed to hold any number of placer mining claims by purchase.

"3. That placer mining claims on newly discovered creeks shall not exceed the dimensions of 250 feet square, as provided by Sections 16 and 17 of Part II of the Placer Mining Act.

"4. That placer mining claims which may be operated by the hydraulic, drift or elevator process shall not exceed an area of 80 acres, but in no case shall such claim include any portion of any mining ground occupied by free miners, unless with the consent in writing of such occupiers, or that such included placer mining ground, shall have been worked out or abandoned.

"5. That a free miner shall not be entitled to a record of a placer mining claim until he shall have paid in advance to the Mining Recorder the usual fees for making such record.

"6. That any free miner having located and recorded a placer mining claim, shall be entitled to hold the same for a period of one year from the date of recording the same, and thence from year to year without the necessity of re-recording provided, however, that during such year and each succeeding year such free miner shall do or cause to be done, work on the claim to the value at least of \$100 and shall satisfy the Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder that such work has been done by an affidavit by the free miner or his agent, setting out in a detailed statement such work, provided, further, that any free miner or company of free miners holding adjoining placer mining claims to be worked under the general system, shall be allowed to perform on any one or more of such claims all work required to entitle him or them to a certificate for work for each claim so held by him or them. If such work shall not be contained or recorded in each and every year, the claim or claims or consolidation of claims shall be deemed vacant and abandoned and open for re-location.

"7. That the owner of a placer mining claim shall be entitled to all surface rights, including the use of all timber thereon for mining and building purposes in connection with the working of such claims for the purpose of developing the minerals thereon, but no longer.

"8. That where the physical conditions surrounding placer mining claims, intended for operation by the hydraulic process, drifting process or elevator process, are such as to make it practically impossible to equip and operate each claim separately, the owner or owners of such claims so situated shall be entitled to form a consolidation of such claims and water rights appurtenant thereto, so that they may be equipped and practically operated on one general system.

"9. That any free miner who is the holder of a placer mining claim shall be entitled to a grant from the Gold Commissioner of such quantity of unappropriated water from any stream or lake, together with the right or privilege to construct and maintain dams, gates, canals, ditches, flumes or pipe-lines for the purpose of controlling such water as may be necessary to work said ground effectively; said grant shall continue in force until said placer claim or mine or consolidation of such claims or mines, shall be worked out or abandoned.

"10. That the holder of a placer mining claim shall, after he has expended in development work the sum of \$500, be entitled to a Crown grant thereof upon payment to the Government of the sum of \$5 per acre.

"11. That the holder or holders of a consolidation of placer mining claims, after he or they shall have expended in the aggregate at least \$1,000 for each claim included in said consolidation, shall be entitled to a Crown grant thereof upon payment to the Government of the sum of \$5 per acre.

"12. That the holders of leases of placer mining ground obtained under the provisions of Part VII. of the Placer Mining Act shall be entitled to a Crown grant of the land included in said lease or consolidation of said leases, provided they have made the required expenditure in development; but in no case shall the holder of a lease be entitled to a Crown grant until he shall have fully paid up all leasehold rents due on such lease or consolidation of leases, and have paid to the Government the sum of \$5 per acre.

"And be it further Resolved, That a free miner after a Crown grant for a single placer mining claim, shall pay towards the revenue of the Government a placer mining tax of twenty-five cents per acre, and that the holder or holders of a Crown grant for a consolidation of such placer mining claims shall pay a placer mining tax of fifty cents per acre for each and every acre included in the consolidation so Crown granted.

"And be it Further Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association an amendment should be added to the Placer Mining Act whereby a survey system should be kept so as to prevent two records being made on the same ground or location on newly discovered creeks or placers; said survey to be made by a provincial land surveyor on each newly discovered creek, placing posts at each 250 feet, to be numbered consecutively 1, 2, 3, and so on, above, and 1, 2, 3, and so on below, discovery; or in case a new creek has been discovered and no provincial land surveyor is within reach, any party of miners may select one of their number to run a base line, the expense of which shall be borne by the Government.

"And be it Further Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association the Water Clauses Consolidation Act should be so amended as to enable the prospector, mineral or placer miner, to secure the quantity of water required to operate his mineral or placer claim by simply recording the same instead of being compelled to pay the high rates now charged for water privileges, which charges are entirely beyond his means; and he shall be entitled to hold said water by record.

"And be it Further Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association the beds of all rivers, creeks, gulches and ravines draining placer mining districts or mineral mining districts, shall be reserved from Crown grant and held open as a highway as a means of affording easement, outlet and drainage,

and a place of deposit for tailings or waste required for the successful operation of either placer or mineral mines.

"And be it Further Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association the Placer Mining Act should be so amended that placer mining claims held within a lease shall become a part of the lease when abandoned or worked out by the placer claimant or purchased from him.

"And be it Further Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, an amendment should be added to the Companies' Act that will effectually prevent two or more companies using such similar names as to create confusion as to which company is intended.

"Respectfully submitted.

"THOS DUNN,
"JAMES MOORE,
"JOHN HOPPER,
"W. M. LOVERIDGE,
"J. B. HOBSON."

Moved by Senator Reid, seconded by Mr. Smith Curtis as follows:—

THE CROWN GRANTING OF PLACER CLAIMS.

"That this Convention favours legislation that will give Crown granted titles to placer claims for which leases are now given and for placer claims which require grouping and large expenditures to make them productive; provided, however, that no Crown grants shall be obtainable until reasonable expenditures for permanent improvements shall have been made, and provided, also, that among other safeguards, restrictions shall be imposed protecting the shallow placer miner, and provided, also, that additional taxation of Crown granted claims in years in which they are not reasonably worked, shall be imposed, and that in preparing new legislation upon the above lines the Government and Legislature are respectfully requested to give serious consideration to the recommendations contained in the above mentioned report of the Placer Mines Committee."

SENATOR REID—I regret very much that the placer miner has not been getting fair treatment as regards the Crown granting of placer mining claims. This is a subject which I have thought of considerably and find that the crucial point is that we should have a Crown grant to our placer mines, more especially in those of the character that require a great deal of capital to develop, and in going before monied men for investment they like to invest in our mines, knowing that they have a good and equitable title in the same. When our prospectors and mine owners go before them everything goes along very nicely and these investors listen very patiently until they tell them that they have not the Crown grants, and that we only have the lease. It is a mistake that we should not have placer claims placed on the same footing as mineral claims, for which Crown grants are given after an expenditure of \$500 has been made. They claim our title is not secure enough and they will not put their capital into our mines and develop them. I may say that the shallow diggings are now worked out in Cariboo and large amounts of capital are required to work the deeper diggings, and unless we can obtain this capital the country will stay where it is, and we can look for no progress in the mining industry.

(Mr. Reid then read a letter from Quesnelle showing his instructions to take action on the lines of the resolutions which he proposed.)

MR. CURTIS—As seconder of this resolution I wish to say a few words in its support, and as to the reason why I support it. It is that the people who have now what we call hydraulic leases and large areas of auriferous gravel that cannot be worked except with a large expenditure of money, cannot get the required capital. In the mines that we desire this capital to be invested in there is a certain amount of

uncertainty of title. Allow me to give you one instance. There is a company in Cariboo, I forget its name, but Senator Campbell is at the head of it. They have sunk a shaft of 500 feet; they have been working for years on that ground and spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, and if their company should run out of funds or be unable to pay their rental to the Government or be unable to do their work for a single year, the whole of that capital is imperilled, and the Government, if it chooses—perhaps at the instigation of some follower who has a pull—may take this claim away from the man who has put all his capital into it and leave it open for the first comer to come along and stock it and take possession of all the work they have done. There are claims in British Columbia in which \$40,000 to \$50,000 have been spent; others over one hundred thousand dollars and their leases are to-day in arrears. There are a large number of leases held by people who have expended money, thousands and tens of thousands of dollars, who have, through no fault of theirs except the want of capital, which they could not get on account of conditions which have existed in British Columbia during the recent years, been forced to give up their claims because these leases are in arrears and all the money that they have put in, at a stroke of the pen is struck out. You don't do that with the quartz miner. Perhaps Mr. Hunter will oppose this—that he will tell you that he is utterly opposed to these Crown grants—but every one who is interested in mining quartz lodes must remember that if Mr. Hunter had his way he would never give a Crown grant for one of them, so if you listen to him on this subject you ought to go with him and say you will never give any more Crown grants for any kind of property. Now, I contend that after a company has shown its good faith and not only expended money in development but put money in improvements that they are entitled to have a Crown grant. They ask for that and say in addition to that they will pay taxation every year, and pay a higher rate of taxation than any other class in this community is asked to do. They say that under their hydraulic provisions they are prepared to pay 50 cents an acre every year, and this motion which I second provides in each and any year in which there is not a reasonable expenditure for work they are to pay additional taxes. Now if they don't pay that taxation their property will eventually be sold for taxes or it will revert to the Crown, and then it will be open for someone to take it up, and while the taxes when they are not worked add considerably to the revenue they are still something that a large company would be able to raise and they would be able to reorganize, and would be able to say to capitalists we can get a Crown grant for our land which will give you security of title. There will be no large expenditure in these immense hydraulic propositions in British Columbia unless you can give them this permanent title. Mr. Hobson will tell you and others acquainted with the question and our Province will know it, and our reports ought to show it, that we have rich mineral deposits and alluvial deposits which require a large amount of capital to develop and which require many millions of dollars to bring water to develop. Water may have to be brought a long distance, and I contend that this Association, made up of mine owners and miners, ranchers, farmers, and business men, if they are to show their good sense, must say to the capitalists that we must have the money and that the capitalists will have a fair show for their money, and that it shall not be at the beck and call of any particular man to cut it off because they are delinquent for the short space of one year. With regard to placer leases I know it has occurred in this Province that because when one man is in arrears for a year or two years at the most he has had his leases cancelled although he has spent a large amount of money, and yet another man has had his lease in arrears for years and it is allowed to go on. I have always contended that this law of leases should be changed, but the Legislature in making its changes should take the greatest possible care to safeguard what are called the little placer claims and the man who puts down his stakes for 250 feet and an additional 150 or whatever it is. He is entitled to it as the first discovered. These prospectors

should have a reasonable time to work out those placers and when it comes down to the hydraulic claims the large capitalist comes in, and he has to take up a reasonable amount of the creek and river and is willing to invest millions and hundreds of thousands of dollars whether it is paying or not. I say he should have a fair chance, and I believe in giving a man who puts in \$500 the same privilege as you give to a man who develops the quartz claims and put in hundreds of thousands and in some cases even over a million dollars.

MR. HUNTER—You must all admit that the placer mining industry of British Columbia is one of the most important assets that the Province has to-day; it is almost the sole asset of Cariboo, and there are very few quartz lands there, as you will know. I would just like to make a very few remarks to let this Convention know what is the real condition of the placer industry in Cariboo, and I would like to say that I have felt since I attended this Convention that we have been labouring under a difficulty, sometimes of improper information in connection with the subject with which we have to deal. I can tell you something about the placer mining industry in Cariboo to-day, which information will be of great value to you and will assist you in coming to a practical and just conclusion. In the district of Cariboo there are a very large number of placer claims that are held under lease. Some of these claims are working, but I believe that the majority of them are not working, and yet they are held under those leases. What is the reason of that? It is simply this: In some cases the Gold Commissioner has failed to cancel these leases as he most surely should have done and so given a chance to other men to go in and locate that ground. If the Minister of Mines were on Monday morning to give the Gold Commissioner of Cariboo instructions to cancel those leases in one or two weeks there would be a very large amount of additional placer mining ground in Cariboo open for location and for working. That is the condition under leases. What would be the condition if all that ground was held under Crown grant? Why, it would be just this, the ground would not be worked the same as it is now, but that land would be held and nobody but the man who was holding it and not working it could hold it or work it. What is the position of the placer mining industry of Cariboo? I am sorry to say—I am sorry to say, sir—that not one of those large enterprises of which we have heard so much is on a paying basis to-day and the only paying placer claims in Cariboo are claims which are of modern size and worked under modern conditions. Now sir, I would ask this Convention what different position would those large claims be in if they had Crown grants for their ground? They would just be in the same position as they are to-day—the position of not paying their shareholders a cent of dividend. It makes no difference. They have been working all the same as if they were Crown granted and there is no difference. What is a Crown grant? A Crown grant, I conceive, to be a placer mining claim which would be absolute title to that claim without any reserve or any modification whatever. You cannot introduce in the Crown grant conditions which will prevent the holder of a placer mining claim from simply paying his taxes, and let that ground lie forever, and there is no remedy. It is all very well to say you can tax the claim, say 25 cents or 50 cents an acre; but what does that amount to? Every piece of land is subject to the incidence of taxation and subject to charges in the amount of taxes, and although you may pay 25 or 50 cents tax per acre on the placer mining claim to-day, the Legislature next session may reduce that taxation to 10 cents an acre and the next session it may take the tax off altogether; then where are you? The holder of Crown grants could then snap his fingers at the public. Here you would have a placer mining claim under a Crown grant and warning everyone off the ground. I will tell you of some of the conditions that I know of in Cariboo. I know of one corporation in Cariboo which has plastered its notices all over the valley of Alexandria eight miles in length, and that corporation, I believe, is just waiting until the Crown grant system is adopted to put a Crown grant on every one of those locations and, according to my estimation and calculation, when that is done it will have sufficient

ground to work to occupy it for 250 years, and that company would then be in a position to warn every miner off that ground. What is the state of placer mining to-day? Any placer mining company can very conveniently get two and a half miles of a creek and valley. Is not that enough? If any of you gentlemen have walked two and a half miles on any of these creeks in the mountains on a hot summer day you would naturally believe that a man who could accompany you on all that ground and own it would have a pretty good thing; but they are not satisfied with that. They want to corral the whole country. Then there is another question. I noticed a corporation in London was congratulating its company the other day that it had seven miles of a creek located under the leasehold system, and it did not know how to praise the mining laws of British Columbia on the system of placer mining because the company could acquire seven miles of a creek. Another company with which I am particularly acquainted has placer mining leases centred over the whole district of Cariboo. I do not know how many of them. It may have altogether thousands of acres of land across Quesnelle Lake and then on Lightning Creek 40 or 50 miles distant. That company wants Crown grants for all its lands, and more than that, it wants Crown grants on Lightning Creek to be placed, and on another claim which is 40 or 50 miles away, which it will never touch. There is another company which holds its land under several leases; that company to my own personal knowledge has not done a tap of work on that ground for four or five years. It is waiting for a chance to Crown grant that land so that it may continue for all eternity to stand and look at it. These are some of the instances which I wish to bring before you, and which will show you the conditions of the placer mining industry in Cariboo. I can assure you that as we have been abolishing several of the burdens that inflict the miners we propose to abolish now in this measure and abolish for ever the individual and the small miner from the district of Cariboo. (Cries of "No, no.") It has been said by Mr. Curtis (He has asked the question) why, if we give Crown grants to mineral claims, why should not the same privilege be given to placer claims, and he thinks that is a very knotty question; but to me it is quite plain. There is a vast difference between a mineral and a placer claim. In the first place a mineral claim is not nearly so large in extent as a placer claim. Now, you take the famous Le Roi, famous in history, and famous in every other way, and famous now, I am glad to say, as a dividend payer. What do you think is the area of that claim? What is the length—1,500 feet as against a placer claim of two and a half miles. There is a very great difference indeed in giving a Crown grant over a small piece of land like that instead of giving a Crown grant over two and a half miles, and mineral claims are smaller in extent than placer claims. Of course it will be said that the principle is the same. It is only a matter of degree. In answer to that I will say I believe verily that if mineral claims were given under proper restrictions there would not be nearly so many claims in Kootenay and the mineral districts tied up as there are to-day. I heartily agree with the details brought in by the committee on placer mines, and I am perfectly satisfied that if those details in the lease and other ameliorations are provided for and those details carried out, that the placer mining industry of Cariboo will be placed in a very good position to-day. I believe that this Convention does not desire or does not wish that any man should support in this Convention what he conscientiously believes to be wrong, no matter whether it is the report of the committee or not, and not only that, I believe that this Convention does not expect me on the floor of the Legislature if this is approved of by this Convention, to support it even there, and I can tell this Convention even now that I will not support that proposition on the floor of the Legislature, and I will go still further and say if the Legislature approves of it I will with every confidence carry it to the court of highest resort—to the tribunal from which there is no appeal—the people of British Columbia.

MR. ALEXANDER, of Bullion—I would move a resolution: That the resolutions submitted by Mr. Hunter, Mr. Moore

and Mr. Borland, and the resolution handed in by the Atlin branch, be read. I might say in connection with the resolution submitted by Mr. Hunter that on Keithley is one of those small mines which is making a dividend up in the Kootenay country.

Motion seconded.

MR. POLLEN, of Fort Steele—I have not had an opportunity of speaking, and I belong to the placer country. I come from Fort Steele where we have several miles of creek and the country is capable of producing a very large and profitable industry. I think the people should bear in mind that the Crown grant will bear very hard on those men who have taken out leases for a short time. Those men have worked the rich placer claims and it is through their work that these big placer companies have come in, and in that very country it is certainly perfectly true that claims have been tied up for a number of years, and I myself wished to have an opportunity of dealing with them. That could only be done by the payment of a large sum of money; the people who held the claims did not work them. Those claims finally went out of the hands of the people who tried to deal with them in the right way and I myself did a certain amount of work upon them. I was able to get a company to start those claims by working them on the hydraulic basis, but the terms of the leases were not attractive, and since that time those claims have gone into other hands. There are two lots together, and in other cases there is a single one, in which the prospector formed a company. Well, if these claims were Crown granted, I do not think that would induce capital to invest money in them more freely. I think those large companies should be assisted in every way to continue their work, but I think at the same time that justice should be done to the poor man. Those placer claims are worked by men who can only do that work, and they can do what nobody else can do.

MR. CAREY, of Barkerville—There seems to be a wrong impression that every one has to apply for a Crown grant and I think, also, that one of the reasons why so much of this country is tied up and leases held without being worked is the lack of capital. I have claims and I have spent thousands of dollars on them, and to-day I have not a dollar to pay the rent of them. No doubt I will arrange the rent before it becomes due, but I have not one dollar to go on with the development work. Now, I believe that those claims are valuable and I do not want to lose them. If I had a Crown grant I would have a chance to sell off a part of them, and it has been my experience ever since I have been in Cariboo that the lack of good and stable title is what hinders me from raising capital. I have been more or less of a prospector for the last twenty years and having a little technical knowledge about the matter and a little legal knowledge, I know whereof I speak. I have been to the Old Country four or five times in the last five years for the special purpose of raising capital and I would not like to tell you of the expressions of capitalists when I mentioned British Columbia and not having Crown grants. I am in favour of Crown grants, and I have come to that conclusion from personal experience that Crown grants should be given to placer claims and thus induce capital to come in and invest in the development of the immense gold alluvial deposits of the Province.

MR. HIRSCHFELD, of Atlin—Mr. Hunter has given us his ideas upon Crown granting. I say that none of those leases would have been tied up if the conditions of that resolution had been complied with, that has been put forth to-day. All those leases would have had to have a certain amount of work done on them which benefits the working man. I will explain why. He says there is a creek eight miles long taken up by a company. I ask you how much that company would have to spend to earn a Crown grant under those conditions? They would have to develop that eight mile creek to the extent of its length. No man, if he is sane, will spend his money in developing a property which he does not want. Now, as a working miner, for myself I never staked a lease in Atlin because I could not afford it, but if I had been able

to stake a lease there I would have done so. If a man takes up a lease he would be able to do exactly what Mr. Hunter says he would do; that is he would be able to prospect a claim, put his money in it and then he could get a Crown grant if he thought well of it. There is no prospector that will not spend his last dollar if he can get a color. I want to show you the fallacy of the argument. I claim that the Crown grant system is best for the poor man. It protects him and prevents the capitalists striking him down. In our country if a man takes up a lease, what happens him? Some one comes in and stakes around him and he gets frozen out. Sometimes he gets something very rich. This legislation is not for companies; this legislation is for the individual miner. I can go in to-morrow if this bill went through the Legislature—I could go through Atlin and Cariboo and take up placer land and work it part of the time and go to work for Mr. Hobson or any other hydraulic company, and in the winter when it is shut down I could live in that country and work my claim, and I could defy Mr. Hobson's or any other working company to take that claim if I have a Crown grant for it. The reason why leases are tied up in that country is not what Mr. Hunter says as regards the Gold Commissioner, but it is the want of an order-in-council by the Lieutenant-Governor. I claim that the Gold Commissioner has no jurisdiction; all he can do is to recommend, and by one stroke of the pen there can be an order-in-council that that lease can be cancelled without knowing the conditions of it. I claim we should support this resolution heartily, both in our own interests and the working man. You cannot tell me it is going to work a hardship on you. I know hundreds of men who would own claims, but what causes them not to? That bad law of proxy, which allows people to live in London and take up claims because one man went in there with proxies, but if a Crown grant had been allowed, under its conditions they would have had to do a certain amount of work and every one of those tied up leases would have been worked. Mr. Hunter says the mines don't pay. I say it pays the people of the province if it does not pay a miner. If the company comes here and puts \$100,000 in this Province and if they take out \$20,000, that goes to enrich the Province and the world and it goes to pay for farmers' produce and wages. It was remarked that the product of gold was no criterion. What becomes of all the gold taken out? It all goes to enrich the working man and the merchant, and the machinery man and the manufacturer, and you are all interested in it, and I claim if we can get Crown grants we can get all the capital we need, and the working man will be benefited by it. The companies will enlarge their plants; they will employ more men, times will get better, the era of prosperity will arrive, and to-day the whole placer country is tied up because they are allowed to be held by men who never had any intention to do any work on them whatever, and if that clause is put in, that Crown grants will only be given after that work is done, these companies would have employed an immense amount of labour and spent an immense amount of capital to obtain these Crown grants and the country would have been enriched—I have not figured it up. Mr. Hunter did not speak long enough—but you can just imagine the immense area tied up by never-worked leases in the Cariboo district. If that whole area was paying 50 cents an acre the revenue of British Columbia would be far greater and we would have lots of money in the treasury. If you don't support that measure I tell you, gentlemen of this Convention, you are going to vote down one of the best measures that was ever brought before any convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The motion before the Convention is that the resolution submitted by Mr. Hunter be read. Are you ready for the question?

MR. J. B. HOBSON, of Bullion—After having had the resolutions adopted and sent here for your consideration, and backed by instructions from several of the branch associations which, I claim, represent over 70 per cent. of the mining population of the Cariboo District, you will be satisfied that the residents, including the prospector, miner, farmer and business men of Barkerville, Quesnelle, Soda Creek, Bullion,

Quesnelle Forks, Keithley, Quesnelle Lake, Horsefly and One Hundred and Fifty Mile House differ with the stand taken by Mr. Joseph Hunter, M.P.P., and favour the issuance of Crown grants for placer mining claims. It would be impossible for a Crown grant issued on the plan proposed by the resolutions to lock up the deep auriferous alluvial deposits of the Province from exploration and development as tightly as they are now locked up by the leasehold system in force under the provisions of Part VII. of the Placer Mining Act. On the watershed of the Quesnelle River alone there are about 250 leases covering an area of about 20,000 acres, and out of this number of leases the only ones worked during the season of 1902 were as follows: By the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company, thirty-four leases, upon which was expended in development \$146,000; three at Spanish Creek, expenditure about \$4,000; three on north side of South Fork of Quesnelle River, expenditure about \$6,000; six leases on main Quesnelle River, expenditure about \$20,000; North Fork of Quesnelle River, two leases, expenditure about \$2,000; Keithley Creek, five leases, expenditure about \$15,000; Horsefly and Harpers', ten leases, expenditure for development work about \$20,000, making a total of sixty-six leases that had expenditures made upon them for development work done in 1902 out of 250 leases, leaving 184 leases, having an area of about 14,720 acres, that have been held and laid over from year to year by some means unknown to the prospectors and miners of the district without having any expenditure whatever made upon them for development. It is true, as Mr. Hunter claims, that one English company operating at Barkerville and vicinity holds under lease a large number of placer claims in that region, and holds as well a large number of placer leases on Cunningham Creek, more than twenty miles from Barkerville, together with thirty to forty miles of the Cariboo Lake and Swamp River for dredging purposes, and I am safe in saying that not a dollar has been expended for development work on the two last named lots of leases since they were issued several years ago and this stupendous consolidation was authorized, we are told, under the provisions of Section 102 of Part VII. of the Placer Mining Act. Is it not time that something was done to remedy the defects of that act? It must appear plain to every prospector, miner or business man in this Convention that under the provisions of Part VII. of the Placer Mining Act the prospector is barred from securing a prospecting claim and holding it within his means. The legitimate investor is also barred from entering the deep placer mining field, first, by being refused a stable title that will warrant him in feeling safe in making the large investment required to equip and open large hydraulic or drift mining properties, and secondly, when the investor did enter the field to look for an investment he was held up for outrageous prices running as high as \$10,000 per lease by the speculation syndicates who have held the placer mining regions locked up for years and runs him out to seek other and more favourable fields for placer mining investments. The Cariboo country is so badly locked up from the prospector, and has been for the past ten years, that it has depopulated to about 30 per cent. of what the mining population was about six years ago. Men are so scarce that crews for large companies have to be secured at other points and their expenses paid up and down the Cariboo Road to induce them to work in the mines. If the enormous areas of deep placers now unworked and locked up under the provisions of Section VII. of the Placer Mining Act are thrown open as proposed the prospectors will rush into the field, take up claims, work for wages during the summer, and prospect his claim during the winter. He becomes a permanent settler, a determined and industrious demonstrator of the millions of wealth that remains to be recovered from the enormous gold alluvial deposits of the Province. The investor, encouraged by the encouraging prospects found by the prospector, backed by a good title under a Crown grant, will rush into the field for investment, and a great deep gravel mining industry will develop, the output of which will outrival that of any known placer mining fields of the world. I hope the resolutions will be adopted as reported by the committee.

MR. MOORE, of Quesnelle Lake—As one of the oldest pioneers in British Columbia, and among the first men that located a claim in this Province, I crave your indulgence for a few minutes. I am not a speaker. I have done all my talking in British Columbia for the last forty-five years with the pick and shovel. (Applause.) I have been sent to this Convention by working miners and prospectors, and I will read to you some of the resolutions, as they will be read to you pretty soon. (Laughter.) I told you before I was not a speaker, and I told you before, or I am going to tell you now, that if you expect I am going to make a speech I will have to disappoint you; but I can tell you, gentlemen, from my own personal knowledge of auriferous ground in this country—I can speak of the Cariboo, the Omineca, and all those districts—there are large areas of auriferous alluvials there; they are locked up from the prospector and the small miner and they cannot touch them under the present law. I am an old prospector and as soon as I have a dollar in my pocket I prospect with it. A few years ago myself and a few more miners started to open up a deep placer mine. We spent all the money we had in hand, some \$9,000. It was very little to a big company, but it was considerable to poor miners like we were. Well, we spent the last dollar we had and when we looked for capital to go into it they asked me what title I had. I told them I had a lease, and they would not look at it, but to-day, if I can get a Crown grant I can get capital to open that mine. To-day I have \$7,000 or \$8,000 worth of machinery resting in that mine, and furthermore I was not able to comply with the terms of my lease; I could not spend my thousand dollars a year on it and \$50 lease on it, and I was forced to abandon that ground after all my hard labour. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind attention. (Cries of "Go on. Go on.") Well, I do not know that I can say much more; but gentlemen, if you give the individual miner and prospector a Crown grant there is not a prospector in Cariboo but will open up those auriferous alluvials that we have now locked up and they will prove the value of those mines, and when he proves the value he can then get capital, and instead of one mine owner being in the Cariboo country to-day, if that law is passed, there will be hundreds more than there are to-day; and further, there will be towns spring up in that country where there is now a wilderness. (Applause.)

MR. GAUNCE—Coming from the quartz mining country I am almost entirely ignorant, as I presume a large number of delegates from quartz mining districts are, of placer mining conditions and regulations. I have listened to the speeches on this question with a great deal of interest and I have listened particularly to the last speech with a particular interest, as it appeared to me to be the most convincing speech to my mind, of the evening; but it occurs to me it would throw some light on the subject if that report was taken up section by section and the conditions sought to be changed were briefly explained by the gentlemen who have the matter in hand. Those long speeches do not give me the information I would like in detail for an intelligent vote to be cast. It seems to me that it would let a whole lot of us out of the dark if these particular changes sought in the placer law were taken up in detail and explained at the time. I merely suggest this as a mode of getting enlightenment on this subject.

MR. ADAMS, of Cariboo—I was very sorry indeed to hear the expressions of my friend Mr. Hunter, who was in the Legislature with myself for quite a length of time, and I would beg to take exception to quite a number of remarks he has made. He seems to be very well posted on the number of claims held in Cariboo not worked. In going over the Crown grants where the leases were we had quite a picture of Lightning Creek. I am interested in Lightning Creek and as for Beaver Creek I am fairly well interested in that creek also. I know that the mouth of the Keithley Creek is not held by leases and as far as Lightning Creek is concerned there are companies on Lightning Creek which have done an immense amount of work. I will instance one. My friend, Senator Reid, and a few others got quite a lot of capital that was supposed to be enough to finish the work and put

the mine on a business basis, but after expending all the money that the shareholders subscribed they had still to go back to the shareholders for another large amount of money. In the meantime the claim was shut down, taking all the risks that surround the holding of a lease under leasehold. After spending the money which was arrived at by the second request made on the company they were again asked to spend another considerable amount. That company has spent over \$200,000 and the ground, as Mr. Curtis said in the early part of the debate, is open for any one who wants to go and take it. I am very sorry indeed that Mr. Hunter made an attack on our Gold Commissioner (who is, I believe, one of the best in the Province) for not cancelling the leases that were held so long unworked. Mr. Moore's lease has been cancelled. I will give you that instance where the lease was cancelled.

MR. HUNTER—Five leases of mine were cancelled and I did not complain.

MR. ADAMS—Now, looking over this system and considering the difficulties the placer miner has had in the past, I think that when a representative body comes from the mining sections, whether placer or mineral, whatever their desires may be, they should have the support of this Convention. This gentleman tells us of a number of leases that have been held in Cariboo and asks why they are held without being worked? Years ago when we thought the lease system—or before the lease system had got into such disrepute—many of us took up leaseholds with the hope of getting capital to work them, and there is none of us but has been trying to get capital into the country for these leaseholds, and I may say that we have paid a great deal of our money out in our efforts to get capital. The measure which is before the Convention which has been read over this evening if passed by the Legislature votes protection to all classes of placer miners. The small miner is guarded by his 250 foot claim in shallow diggings, and the investor has a title that goes behind everything, and I think that we have approached the matter in a liberal spirit. You will see in the latter section of the resolution that we offered to pay a tax such as we have been doing and the only thing we want an improvement on is the title, and that, I think, ought to be given to us.

MR. MARSH, of Rossland—Although I have been engaged in quartz mining for some years I am somewhat familiar with the placer mining. I only want to say a few words, that these results before the Convention appear to represent the consensus of opinion of the committee who were selected by the placer miners and who were selected to look into all phases of the question. Now, I will say on the other side, that none of us who own a thirty-foot town lot or a city block would build a building on it of any description, or invest any money, in it, until we first examined its title, and if that is not good we do not want anything to do with it. Any kind of an investment, whether it is a cannery, factory, saw mill, or building a house, the capitalist wants to know what the title is before he puts a dollar in it, and if we ask capital to come here and invest in the mines we want to give them a title and a title which should answer their purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The motion is that certain documents be read for your information prior to deciding the question. Shall these documents be read?

Motion carried and petition presented by Mr. Hunter, M. P.P., was read.

MR. DEVEREUX of Hedley City—I followed Mr. Hunter—at least I tried to follow Mr. Hunter—and I fancy he would have us all believe that that country is to-day a placer mining country, that is for the ordinary class of miners. Now, I think that that class of mining was done in that country a great many years ago. Is it a fact that there is still carried on that class of mining, or are the individual prospectors trying to work hydraulic properties, or what is it? Or are they simply sluicing on the bars of the river? If placer

ground in that country is so worked his argument is vain, but if it is hydraulic leases those individual miners will fall in with this Crown granting of their claims. I would like Mr. Hunter to explain.

MR. HUNTER—I may tell my friend, Mr. Devereux, that in the district of Cariboo to-day there are lots of claims worked by individual miners, and these miners have never heard of a capitalist in their life—never heard of the Standard Oil Co. or of Rothschild who was going to throw so much money into the Cariboo when the Crown grant system was adopted.

MR. HENDERSON, of Ashcroft—There is no question about it, the hydraulic mining interest has a grievance, and the hydraulic mining, as it exists to-day in Cariboo, is on a very poor basis. I may say that the titles granted from the Government are a distinct failure, a delusion and a snare; and those who have had any experience with that branch of the mining industry in British Columbia must know it is impossible to get capital there under the present state of titles. For instance, it is quite possible under the present conditions for a man to take out a permit on the very ground covered by a lease; it is quite possible for a man to take the Crown grant of an agricultural holding on the very ground covered by the lease, and it is quite possible for a man to stake a townsite on the ground covered by the lease, or for a man to stake a quartz claim, and get a Crown grant on this ground covered by the lease. I know from my own experience where it has occurred, and where it is in existence to-day. One man having the Crown grant can practically take the returns of the holder of a lease. Another thing is this: Under the present system of leases water has to be obtained, and must be obtained in all hydraulic mines. Now, that lease will run out in twenty years, and perhaps three or four years before the lease runs out another man comes along and he stakes the water for other property, and that under the present existing bad law is allowed to go to the other property, although the leaseholder may be entitled to the water on his land, and there will be as a result of this litigation over the water. I have stated what is largely the defect in regard to the present holdings of the title, but the remedy proposed is what I object to, as it is going to tie up Cariboo in a way it has never been tied up heretofore, and the country will never be prospected to bring capital into it. Just take this question of water. You don't seem to understand that the hydraulic mine means the utter and total destruction of the land over which that lease is if that land is worked, for the effect of hydraulic mining completely destroys the utility of the land for all time to come and grass will never again grow on that ground. You cannot fertilize it under any condition over the place where the water has run, and where the water is got out of a tunnel you have a regular hole, and the land is destroyed. Now these diggings for placer grounds are limited to an exception, practically speaking. They do not go up the sides of mountains. They are in the beds of creeks. It is true we have hill and drifting claims, and light grounds don't apply to them. They work injury and damage and don't meet the conditions which arise in their proper work. Take a deep claim, for instance. Take such a claim as Mr. Hobson has. He has a shaft in the neighbourhood of 300 feet and a tunnel of 1,100 feet. That is a quartz claim and worked as a quartz claim, and does not destroy all the surrounding land or everything it touches, like hydraulic mining. These two classes of mines should be separated, and Crown grants should be given to the mines operated the same as the quartz mine. A quartz mine does not destroy the ground the same as an hydraulic mine does, for the hydraulic claim requires a great deal of water pressure to operate it, and once you turn loose that pressure it destroys everything. Why, I have seen trees blown off the bank into the river from the force of that water, and they would go down the river standing upright like that.

A Voice—That is a pretty big tree story. (Laughter.)

MR. HENDERSON—I saw it in North Bend. The tree was blown off the plain into the river, and it went down the

river standing up. As I said before, the ground covered by leases are usually along the beds of creeks. Take a creek of ten miles long. A man comes along and he gets a Crown grant at the mouth of it. The water necessary to work that comes from that river or that creek, or from a neighbouring creek. Now, all the water necessary to work that creek can be taken up under the conditions set down in the report of this committee by the owner of the Crown grant at the mouth of the creek, and the remaining ten miles of that creek cannot be worked, and the man who has Crown granted his claim at the mouth of the creek locks up those eight or ten placer claims that might otherwise be taken up at the mouth of the creek, by reason of this water monopoly. That condition of affairs in the case of Crown grants would simply block the working of the creek, whereas in case of leases it would not do so. A man would be compelled to work this ground for a certain number of years or else forfeit his lease. The remaining leases on that creek are locked up and in the possession of the owner of these two Crown grants at the mouth of the creek. The other question in my mind is the cost, the expenditure of \$1,000 a year to work it. It is simply outrageous, in order to work a placer claim, that one should have to pay this amount. A thousand dollars is by no means a mild figure, and there are very few claims in Cariboo to-day that don't require a milder pitch, and at the same time this amount is excessive, and it would be a great deal better in the interest of mining to have it reduced. Another clause in the lease which ought to be changed is that the leaseholder should not touch any agricultural ground. He cannot destroy the property if he keeps agricultural ground. These are the most forcible objections and possible objections which ought to be met and which the Legislature ought to legislate upon, and remove from the statute book, but it is the remedy which is proposed by this committee, and that remedy alone, that I have any objection to. I do not object to Crown grants if they are made for ten years instead of five, or to leases if they are given for forty years instead of twenty, but this committee, although they have had the matter in hand for four or five days, bring in this matter to-night; but they have left untouched the main point. To my mind it is simply preposterous to ask for a Crown grant for \$500 worth of work. Five hundred dollars' worth of work does not amount to anything unless you have water on the ground. It would not build a dam, and to say that by giving \$500, which, as I said, would not build a dam, you can secure a Crown grant to a mineral claim, is simply preposterous to my mind.

Mr. J. B. HOBSON.—The question before you to-night is one of the greatest propositions that has come before you here, with the exception of the labour proposition. It affects every man in this Province, be he a miner, a prospector, a merchant, a professional man, or any other class. I am the owner of a large property in Cariboo including 34 leases—34 leases for which we have to pay \$50 a year each. We are required to expend by the provisions of Part VII of the Placer Mining Act \$34,000. I will tell you, gentlemen, there has not been a year since I have been in charge of the property that we have not expended from \$100,000 to \$150,000 annually, and another thing I will tell you right here, I don't come here to seek for a Crown grant for that property. I have no personal motive in moving this proposition. We pay \$50 a year for each of the leases, and we have been able to pay it, fortunately, per claim per year. During the progress of our work we have expended \$1,900,000. That was distributed fully 70 per cent. to the labourer and the balance between the merchant, the stock man, and the farmer. During the progress of the development of that property we have taken out \$1,677,000, all of which was expended in the country besides what we put in ourselves. For myself I have put in \$170,000 in the enterprise in which I am interested in British Columbia. I took it out of the mines of California and put it in here—(Hear, hear.)—because there are better mines of that class in this country than there are in any part of the world. I have not moved in this proposition backed

up by my company. They don't care. They are obliged to pay the charges made upon the leasehold system, and are willing to pay, and it would be cheaper to pay them than to go to the expense of securing Crown grants. This year my associates, including myself, have put up another two hundred thousand dollars to assist in completely developing that property. Two hundred thousand dollars is going in again this next year together with what we may be fortunate enough to take out, and I believe the result of our investment will be to demonstrate to the world that you have the richest and grandest deep alluvial country in the world—(Applause.)—and I know already you have it because I have been over it and examined it from a geological standpoint. It was the losses of such men as James Moore and other prospectors in that country that induced me to move in this proposition. It was in the interest of the individual miner, in the interest of the prospector, and the class that I belong to myself. It is in their interest that I move in this matter and I have moved in it at my own expense. No company backs me in the cost of going over this country and organizing these local organizations. I have done it, I say, out of loyalty to this Province. If we cannot develop our resources, what good are they? It has been claimed that companies lock it up. I claim there is not a company that has locked it up at all. It is locked up to-day, not only the placer mining lands, for sixty miles west of me on the Quesnelle River—not by mine owners or companies, but by syndicates of schemers who took up that country after I commenced developing the Cariboo mines, just merely for the purpose of selling it if they had a chance, to some outsider, and there is no country that is locked up as that Cariboo country is to-day. It would be impossible to lock it up tighter. It has been locked up for forty years under the leasehold system, and where has the development resulted? The company that I represent has paid in the last ten years over \$50,000 to the revenue of this Province, more than all the others in that region. We have paid from \$9,000 to \$12,000 a year towards the revenue of this country, and not one dollar has been paid by the members of those syndicates of schemers in the way of leasehold rent or in development work, and how they lock up the country and how they are allowed to do it I cannot say, unless it is by special favour. I say under the present laws a prospector is barred from entering that placer field. He must first dig up \$50 to \$55 to secure a lease, and what individual miner is able to spend \$1,000 as well in a country like that, where he can only work from seven to eight months in the year? His earnings will not allow him to do it, so his chances are barred and he has left us. They stay until they find they cannot hold prospect claims, and to-day in the district of Cariboo (and I leave it to Mr. Hopp, who is operating a large proposition at Barkerville) that it is hard to get labour by paying a fair rate of wages. The country is deserted practically, and unless something is done to remedy this evil it will be locked up worse, and I claim, gentlemen, that a man like James Moore, who has addressed you here to-night,—it is for men like him that I am moving in his interest and in that of his class to-day, because if the prospector is debarred from entering the field, where do you expect development to come from? He is the man who should be legislated for instead of put down and discouraged, and should be encouraged to enter all the districts of all this Province. I am not speaking in the interest of capital, but of course, as you know, capital is necessary to develop this great industry. You cannot develop large hydraulic propositions unless you have a large amount of capital, and to show you what it costs to get water on these propositions, I will say that it has cost my company anywhere from \$1,000 to \$25,000 per mile to construct thirty-three miles of canal, all constructed by labour, and the money that they earned was distributed in the country. Now, then, so far as Barkerville district being locked up by Crown grants, as stated to you by previous speakers, I will say this: In 1802 I was looking over the country for the purpose of investment, and this ground in the bed of the creeks below Barkerville was offered to me. I found that there were four Crown grants covering these creeks. They

were small Crown grants, and there were four of them. Now I am ready to prove by one of the delegates here, Mr. John Hopp, and other gentlemen (there is Mr. Rogers, a merchant of Barkerville, also) that these Crown granted lands so referred to as being obstructive were entirely worked out. There may be some below Stanley that are not; but those four claims that have been referred to in the Barkerville district have been worked out, so I have been advised by responsible and reliable men. Now, if you bar the prospector, as I stated before, how do you expect to develop this country? If he does not enter the field and get values, how do you expect capital to follow him? The legitimate capitalist wants to prove first the values and next the title. I organized two companies, one in Boston and one in New York three years ago, and Mr. Smith Curtis can advise you that I presented a measure here requesting the Government of British Columbia to give me some sort of stable title in order that some millions of dollars could be invested in the Cariboo district, and be distributed to the merchants and others of your cities, but I was barred and sat down upon, principally by my friend, Mr. Hunter. His influence was used against giving any title that would encourage the investment of capital in that country.

MR. HUNTER—You are wrong there.

MR. HORSON—I know I am right and I will leave it to Mr. Smith Curtis. I claim that if you open up this country on a broad gauge plan and let the prospector come into the country and let the miner hold his claim at reasonable terms, like James Moore and others in that country who have pleaded with me to help them many times, if you open up your country on the broad gauge plan, hundreds of millions will come into your fields. I know it will. I can encourage the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars from California. It will come here and your country will settle up and your cities will be more prosperous and your farmers will sell thousands and thousands of dollars' worth of their produce, and I trust, gentlemen, that you will give this matter your serious consideration, because if they are opened up as I propose, by a reasonable Crown grant system, you will soon develop the industry and there will be more money in circulation in this country than is now being produced by the Klondyke. I tell you, gentlemen, the Klondyke is only a fraction compared to what you have in your own Province. (Applause.) True, the shallow placers are all exhausted. In the Cariboo, Omineca and in Cassiar they are practically all exhausted.

CAPT. CLIVE PHILLIPS-WOLLEY—Not in Cassiar.

MR. HORSON—I mean shallow placer mining. I claim that you should pass this resolution and I plead with you here that by so doing you will do something to better the conditions of your Province and in so doing the country could not be locked up half so tight as by those leases held by syndicates, and there are thousands of inches of water being shut up and held by syndicates who are waiting for some available administration so that they can sell those claims to some investor; but they have tried and tried to sell them for the last ten years, but could not do so on account of the lack of stable title.

MR. CHAIRMAN—You have heard the report of the committee. Shall this resolution be adopted?

The question was then put and motion carried.

THE FERNIE STRIKE.

HON. COLONEL PRIOR—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: A resolution was passed by this Convention a little time ago to the effect that a committee should be appointed to proceed to Fernie to try and settle the labour troubles that are at present taking place there. That was carried, I believe, unanimously. Now I am told, gentlemen, in fact I know,

that Mr. Mackenzie King, the Deputy Minister of Labour from Ottawa, is there at present trying to bring about a settlement of that dispute. Therefore I think it might be an unwise thing just for the present time to interfere with him in his efforts to bring about a settlement. I think, though, that it would be a good idea for me, or the Government, I might say, to send a telegram to Mr. King stating that such a committee has been formed to-day and is willing and ready to offer its services to assist in bringing about a settlement of the labour question at Fernie if he sees fit to accept its services. I know about a week ago that I telegraphed up to Fernie offering my services or any man the Government might see fit to employ to bring about a settlement, but they stated that Mr. King was on his way there and it might complicate matters. I have just been told by your worthy treasurer, Mr. Fraser, that although this committee has been appointed, it would be impossible to send them because there are no funds with which to pay their expense. Now, if Mr. King fails to bring about a settlement I think that this Association should use their very best endeavours to see that that committee goes up and tries to bring about a settlement, for the serious consequences that will result from this disastrous strike are more than any man here can conceive. The whole country, the whole mining country of the Kootenays and the Boundary, may be closed up for an indefinite period unless the miners of Fernie and the owners of those coal mines come to a speedy settlement. Now, as I said, there are no funds in the treasury of this Association. Everybody has done his best to bring this Association together and put it on a firm footing, but we have been told to-day it takes a lot of money to start an association of this kind, but under the circumstances I may say we as a government are willing to provide the funds for that committee to go to Fernie. (Applause.) And I tell you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, although there are no funds in the treasury available for that purpose, because there was no vote passed at the last sitting of the House for any such purpose, at the same time we are willing to risk that and supply the necessary funds and to take the risk of the Legislature voting us down. I do not believe, however, that there will be a single member in the House who would refuse his vote in favour of such a sum of money being granted for such a purpose. I say, gentlemen, this is one of the most serious subjects that has been brought up in this assembly, and I feel that we are only doing our duty as a government which has the best interests of British Columbia at heart in offering to assist in this small way—for it can only be a thousand dollars or two thousand—which is insignificant in comparison to the serious consequences which are involved. I therefore, on behalf of the Government, wish to make the offer, that if Mr. Mackenzie King does not bring about the settlement speedily we will provide funds for this committee to proceed to Fernie and see what they can do with the question.

A Delegate of Victoria—I would like to ask the Premier this question, if he will telegraph to Mr. Mackenzie King to see if this committee would be acceptable?

HON. COL. PRIOR—Yes, I would be only too glad, but I think it would be better for your chairman to telegraph and offer the assistance of the committee, but if he does not do that I will be perfectly willing to do it.

MR. SMITH CURTIS—When this organization drafted that resolution it was intended that this Association was to be non-political, that is non-partisan in every sense, and I think it might come from me as well as any one else, and perhaps it would be a little better for me on this occasion—to move a hearty vote of thanks to the Hon. Col. Prior, as Premier and Minister of Mines of this Province, for the offer which he has made to this delegation. As he has said, it is not a large sum and we do not look at it in that spirit, but it shows that we have accomplished just what this Convention wished to bring about. I think we are on the eve of a happy departure from the present mining difficulties, and I know

now we have the hearty co-operation of the Government, and the interest of the Minister of Mines and the Hon. the Premier of this Province in mining matters, and it is because he has shown this broad spirit and without delay, and without very considerable deliberation has offered right off to help us in this emergency in a matter which requires prompt action, that I am glad to offer our thanks to him. I had a resolution which I tried to substitute for a report which was to urge both governments to take an active part in the settlement of this strike. We have Mr. Mackenzie King on the scene and we have now the hearty co-operation of the Provincial Government, so I do not think I will now press that motion, but I do ask that each and every one of us, appreciating as we do Col. Prior's kindness, give a hearty vote of thanks to Col. Prior for what he has done to meet this need.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS—I beg to second that resolution and I may say that it is one great thing that we have done at this Convention for the representatives of labour.

Motion carried.

MR. HAGGAN, of Vancouver—I propose that three hearty cheers be tendered to Col. Prior for his kindness in this matter.

Three cheers and a tiger were then given for the Premier and the Government, and his offer was unanimously accepted.

MR. HAGGAN—I see His Worship the Mayor in the room, and as a number of us are leaving to-night I think we should take this opportunity while we are all here together to express the hearty appreciation of this Convention to His Worship the Mayor, the aldermen, and the citizens of Victoria for the splendid way in which they have entertained us on this visit to their city. They have given us the use of this magnificent hall, thrown open their clubs to us, and have given us this magnificent drive this afternoon, and I am sure we feel heartily thankful for what they have done to make our visit pleasant and profitable, and I therefore move that this Convention extend their appreciation and thanks to the Mayor and aldermen and the citizens of Victoria.

MAYOR BURRELL—Mr. Chairman, I don't quite understand the drift of this meeting. Is this meeting going to adjourn finally? I would like to know if that motion is in order, because if so I will second that motion of Mr. Haggan's, and I might say that we are very much indebted for the kindness which has been tendered us, and gentlemen, if you consider it wise in your opinion to come to Grand Forks next year we will try to do the same for you, in a smaller way.

The question was then put and motion carried with loud cheers.

MAYOR McCANDLESS—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Convention: I assure you that I thank you very heartily for the vote of thanks which has just been tendered to the citizens of Victoria and myself as their representative. I was on my way home this evening—in fact I had forgotten all about the Convention—until I saw the light in the window as I was passing and I thought I would come up and see what you were doing. We have done simply what we should to entertain you and what you would do for us, and what you may have the privilege of doing on some future occasion. I hope that this Convention, as I said at the opening, will do a vast amount of good, and as I stated then, it might have the tendency to remove the cloud which has been hanging over the mining industry for the last four years, and from what I have seen of the gentlemen here and the resolutions they have passed, I think they are on a fair way to accomplish that end. I hope, gentlemen, that we shall have the pleasure of seeing many of you back in Victoria again, either as individuals or as members of the Mining Convention and I wish the members of this Convention every success.

MR. LANGSTAFF—As we are in a sort of a cheering mood—we have cheered the Premier and I think we have cheered the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor—I think we ought as well cheer the Mayor of Victoria. (Loud cheers.)

The motion was seconded and carried, and the meeting then adjourned till 9 a.m. Monday, the 2nd March.

MORNING SESSION.

2nd March, 1903.

The meeting opened at 9 am. and the minutes of the preceding day's business were read.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I am requested by the Commissioner of Lands and Works to say that in view of what has transpired at this Convention he has sent for the Boiler Inspector to come and report at Victoria at once, so that those gentlemen who are not thoroughly satisfied with the Boiler Act may have the opportunity of discussing the matter with the Commissioner of Lands and Works and the difficulties may be discussed and settled. I am going to ask you to take off your coats and work like beavers this morning. We want to close the Convention if we possibly can by lunch time today. This afternoon we want to get the Executive to work from 2 to 7 o'clock and at 7 o'clock we want to leave on the "Majestic" for Fernie. You know the difficulties in dealing by wire and letter, for you cannot look a man in the eyes when you are writing to him. I have no one here to tell me as to whether the miners' union would accept our offices, but I see Mr. Tonkin here and I would ask him if he would accept the honest mediatorial offices of this committee.

MR. TONKIN—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: Unfortunately I was absent from the meeting on Saturday night when this matter was being discussed, but I wish to thank this Convention for the kindly interest they have taken in a matter of such vital importance to me and, I think, to the Province of British Columbia as well. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to offer to that committee of conciliation any means in my power to arrive at the direct result of the trouble in Fernie, and I offer them any information from our books which will be thrown open to them or any information they desire in their endeavour to straighten this matter out. I am very much pleased to know that such a commission has been appointed. (Applause.)

MR. SEAMAN—Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear the remarks of Mr. Tonkin of Fernie. I speak as a miner myself, and I did not know anything about the miners' union there. I am very glad indeed that this opportunity has been presented to this Convention of British Columbia to settle this difficulty. I will go further and state that I do not believe that we will be there more than twenty-five minutes before the strike is settled. I want to see the public informed just where the trouble is and where it belongs to and we will abide by the decision come to. I cannot advise what decision we will come to and I thank you again, gentlemen, for the opportunity of placing this thing in the proper light and where it should be placed before the public of British Columbia. We can see that over 20,000 men will be involved in this trouble and I think that this is the time to settle it, and I think it can be settled.

MR. CHAIRMAN—A communication has just been received from Stanley, British Columbia, by Mr. Hunter bearing upon the placer industry, and I would suggest you refer it to the Executive rather than take it up just now.

It was moved and seconded that the above referred to communication be handed over to the Executive Committee. Carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF GEOLOGIST BY GOVERNMENT.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I have a resolution moved by Mr. Hirschfeld. That the Provincial Government procure the services of a reliable and competent geologist to report during the present season on the geological conditions and mineral resources.

Mr. HOBSON—I ask that this matter be referred to the Executive Committee for the purpose of saving time.

Motion seconded and carried.

Mr. CURTIS—Mr. Chairman, it is seconded by Mr. Heidman and moved by myself that—

“Whereas, The coal and coke supply from the Crow’s Nest coal mines has proven quite inadequate to meet the requirements of the smelters and miners in British Columbia, whereby the output of the mines, particularly the copper mines of the Boundary and the gold-copper mines of Rossland during the past and the present year, have been and are much curtailed;

“Therefore, Be it Resolved, That the Dominion Government be requested to take steps for the immediate opening of coal mines on the part of the 50,000 acres held by it in Southeast Kootenay, under such provisions as will insure a large supply of coal and coke at an early date, and at a reasonable price.”

I know that the time is short and I cannot be expected to go into this minutely. I would like to see the waste lands in Southeast Kootenay that have been in reserve for the last fourteen years taken up. It is a very considerable area and they are unquestionably the richest mineral lands in British Columbia, not only the richest but the most valuable. There are unquestionably large deposits, in fact, enormous deposits of both coal and petroleum. I have seen prospectors who have been there and they have told me that a very considerable area of that land is stocked with petroleum, and many others said they can scoop it up, and I have seen some very rich samples taken from there by different individuals. Now this land was intended originally, I believe, to be held until there was some reasonable chance of development, and then be thrown open. It should, in my opinion, have been thrown open years ago and the Province to-day would have been reaping a direct revenue of half a million dollars that would largely increase from year to year. This especially affects the interests of this Province and these great natural resources should be farmed by the Province to the fullest extent to get the largest possible revenue out of them, and if they got the taxes out of these natural resources, the now exorbitant taxes could be taken off the mining industry, and capital would go into that country and open it up which would benefit the farmers, ranchers, and every man in this Province. It is a great mistake for us to suppose because it is a remote piece of land we have no interest in it. We have as much interest in it as though we lived within ten miles of it, because we are interested in the proceeds gotten out of it. Now, it so happened in 1896 that this Province gave a grant of land to a railway company which was intended to carry its line to Okanagan Lake. Under that land grant it was provided that the railway company should be entitled to a certain amount of land. In the first instance 10,000 acres per mile, and subsequently increased to 20,000 for a broad gauge road. Now, it so happens that the Provincial Government—it is claimed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—made out Crown grants to this piece of land I refer to, giving it to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and the question was asked in the Local Legislature last session if those Crown grants were given to the C. P. R. and the answer was “No.” That those lands were not given to the company, and I know from the ministers—one of the ministers at least—that they did not intend, so it was stated, to give this land to the railway company. The Crown grant therefore being signed and left in the Government vault in some way the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has learned of this and is now taking action in the court to get those lands which, according to the Act they cannot have any real or honest right to, because the lands granted to that railway must be contiguous to that railway and not hundreds of miles away, but if the C. P. R. Co. gets these lands we will lose an enormous amount of revenue, and whether we get a royalty under those lands or not I do not know. I think it is quite possible if this Asso-

ciation will take this matter up that the people will come in and there is no doubt a company could be gotten up within three or four months’ time which would give forty or fifty thousand dollars cash for those lands which the C. P. R. is trying to get for nothing. I therefore ask this Association to urge upon the Government, as that resolution says, to resist the attempt of the C. P. R. to take away those great sources of revenue which will inure to the benefit of every one of us in the mining industry, and in the next place, gentlemen, I consider those coal and petroleum lands should be opened up and the settlers allowed to go in there and take those lands on fair and equal terms, and that being done we would soon have a big revenue and this shortage of coke and coal from which we are now suffering would be overcome. We would have railways built in there and a great development would take place which would mean an enormous benefit to the whole of British Columbia and it would make that part of the Province one of the richest and most progressive and prosperous of British Columbia.

CAPT. WOLLEY—I only wish to ask one question of Mr. Curtis. Mr. Curtis has already passed a resolution here, the effect of which might be to put the whole of the Cariboo districts, surface rights and everything else, into the hands of a sub-division of the C. P. R. and now he is coming before us and asking us to take away this land from the C. P. R. I think he is very inconsistent.

MR. POLLEN, of Fort Steele—East Kootenay has been given away to different companies in the past. I am not making any reflection on the Government at all, but East Kootenay has been given away to these different companies as a matter of policy and what is now left to the Province is one one-hundredth of the whole country. This piece of land referred to by Mr. Curtis is one of the very small fractions left. Mr. Curtis is a member of the House, and I think we should have the opinion of the country itself to tell us what action to take in the matter. As it so happens I have received a letter from that part of the world protesting very much that this thing should be thrown open. It is injurious that large corporations and monopolies should go in there, and they have been boasting that they are going to get control of this land. I quite agree with Mr. Curtis, if it is to be thrown open and made use of it should be on equal terms to everybody, and not be put in the hands of companies who are boasting they are going to get control of this land.

MR. CURTIS—My resolution says on free and equal terms.

MR. POLLEN—My idea is that the Government have those things under consideration.

MR. CURTIS—By way of explanation I merely wish to point out that if you safeguard that particular thing it is very important that the land should not be thrown open until the company has had enough time to express their opinion on it, and I am of the opinion that prospectors should get it and not have them thrown into the hands of monopolists.

MR. SMITH—I quite agree with this gentleman in regard to what he says, and that is to provide by way of resolution that the Government is to obtain a reasonable supervision over the control of land granted. We leave it to the Government to fix those safeguards. I quite agree that it should not be gobbled up by any particular company or set of promoters.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS—Mr. J. W. Collis, a delegate from Nicola Valley, who is sick, has asked for the indulgence of the meeting that this letter should be read when the question came up.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It is a short letter and as the writer is sick I think we should read it.

“Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: In speaking to the resolution on this question of throwing open coal land at present held under reserve by the Dominion and Provincial Governments, I wish to express myself as being heartily in accord with the idea of throwing open these lands,

so as to utilize them for the advantage of the smelting industry in the Boundary country.

"The future of this industry is of such paramount importance to that part of the country that you will pardon me for making reference to the merits of the particular district I represent. The late Dr. Dawson in his last report on the Nicola coal fields, after two bore tests had been made to a depth of 600 feet and 560 feet respectively, said: 'The coals obtained in three borings yield a good strong coke and the result of these tests is to indicate that a considerable undisturbed and easily workable coal field exists beneath the valley.'

"I submit in reference to this question of the future coke supply for the Boundary smelters that it is to the Nicola coal fields (which are known now to be of a very large extent) even before Crow's Nest you must look. The distance from Grand Forks to Fernie is 350 miles. The distance from the Nicola coal fields would be a little over 200 miles, taking an easily practical route. The present C. P. R. survey from Spence's Bridge to Midway; this haul from Midway to the Boundary in fact affords a much easier haul than from Fernie to Grand Forks. It is to the interest to all engaged in mining in this important section of the Province to have these coal fields at present better known on the outside and opened up so that you have an alternative source of supply to the Crow's Nest, obviating any danger in the future of there being a shortage of coke for smelting purposes.

"I do not wish to occupy the attention of this important Convention for any length of time, for I feel, with a whole lot of other delegates, that our time is very valuable.

"I will add in conclusion that it is only lack of transportation facilities alone that is preventing us in the Nicola helping the whole Boundary country out in this matter of shortage of coke. We have at different times made strong representations to afford us transport, but up to the present without avail."

MR. GALT—With regard to the question now before the Convention I might say that two years ago I was engaged by parties in Spokane and other places, by men of ample means, to endeavour to acquire for them a title to some of these lands which are referred to in the resolution. They had sent down at a very great expense prospectors into that country which were wholly unknown at that time. They were pioneers in the district and they located what they supposed to be very promising and very valuable petroleum and coal fields and were fully under the belief that there would be no trouble under our British Columbia law in acquiring title to these lands; they knew perfectly well from the situation of them it would be a matter of very great expense to open up those fields because they could only be reached during a comparatively small part of the summer owing to the amount of snow, but they were quite prepared to put their money in on the indications which they found there and spend very large sums of money in this Province in the development of the same. We made repeated efforts to the Government here to obtain title, and for them to be allowed to pay the usual license fee of \$50 or something like that; but we were met continually with the answer that these lands were under reserve. They were not known to anybody else, but after weeks they acquired the right to locate and develop those lands and those gentlemen were met with persistent opposition down here, the main reason being that the lands were under reserve, and in the end they simply decided to throw the whole matter up and to leave their locations to some one else altogether, and other gentlemen have gone into the same neighbourhood, and no doubt all those lands which by right and fairness should have belonged to those Spokane gentlemen are now being located by others. I do not know whether those parties have any title to them or not. I don't suppose they have; but what I wish to point out is the extreme hardship that surrounds the prospector and capitalist who wishes to invest in this country. I do not wish to accuse any member of the Government or of any of the de-

partments of any actual dishonesty or fraud in connection with the transaction of that thing, but it is easy to see what a very wide door is open if when an application is made for valuable mineral claims and all information is acquired by their officials that if the original applicants are refused, those parties acquiring that information may either directly or indirectly take such an interest in those lands before any one else comes in there as to make it impossible for anybody else to get in there. Although I do not make any such assertion in this case it is manifest that if half a dozen or a dozen people know of such claims it is very likely that some one favoured party will be informed of that before the general public will find their way into the locality or any one gets into the country. For this reason I thoroughly concur in having those lands thrown open, and while this Province owes a great deal to the C. P. R., still I think, on the other hand, the Canadian Pacific Railway owes a great deal more to this Province.

MR. HOWSE, of Nicola—I would like to make a suggestion with reference to the reserve in the Southeast Kootenay. This plan has been adopted in the United States in opening up reserves: They advertise for some months in advance the dates on which those reserves will be thrown open to the public and I do not think that we could adopt a better suggestion than to give the public the opportunity of making one of those grand rushes and give the prospectors and all others an equal chance of getting a little slice in that country. I would ask that public notice be given of the date on which those lands are to be thrown open.

MR. LUGRIN—That is unnecessary, because the law now requires three months to be given.

MR. TOWNSEND—Has it not been admitted that this matter is now before the court; therefore is it proper for us to discuss it?

MR. CURTIS—I saw in the paper that the Canadian Pacific Railway had made some application to the Government. All we wish to do is to strengthen the hands of the Government. The resolution was carried.

UNSCRUPULOUS PROMOTERS OF COMPANIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN—A resolution has been submitted by Mr. Gynn, seconded by Mr. Gillman—That in order to protect the interests of British Columbia and to protect them against unscrupulous stock promoters this Convention recommends the appointment by the Government of an expert mining commission, whose duty it shall be to examine and consider the prospectuses of newly formed mining companies with a view to determining whether the statements therein contained are substantially correct and if necessary to send the Government inspector to view the properties referred to in the prospectus before granting a charter.

Carried.

MINERAL ON INDIAN RESERVES.

Moved by F. H. Wollaston, seconded by C. H. Arundel:

"Resolved, That this Convention respectfully urges upon the Dominion and Provincial Governments the desirability of opening Indian reserves in British Columbia for mining purposes and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to both Governments and the Senators and Members of the Federal Parliament from British Columbia."

The question was then put and the motion carried.

OPENING OF GOVERNMENT COAL MINES.

Moved by Mr. Smith Curtis, seconded by Noble Bins—

"Whereas, The coal and coke supply from the Crow's Nest coal mines has been proved quite inadequate to meet the

requirements of the smelters and mines in British Columbia whereby the output of the mines, particularly the copper mines of the Boundary and the gold-copper mines of Rossland during the past two years have been and are much curtailed;

"Therefore, Be it Resolved, That the Dominion Government be requested to take steps for the immediate opening of the coal mines on part of the 50,000 acres held by it in the Southeast Kootenay under such provisions as will insure a large supply of coal and coke at an early date and at a reasonable price."

MR. CURTIS—The idea I have in moving this resolution is this: The Dominion Government have 50,000 acres of land which they have reserved out of the grant given to the British Columbia Southern Railway Company, now known as the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and they made provision that coal had to be put out by this company at a reasonable price, at \$2.00 per ton, and that company has spent an enormous amount of money, and shown the greatest possible enterprise, and for a time carried on their operations at a loss. They have, I believe, now started a railway from Crow's Nest Pass into the United States, to connect with the Boundary, as they have a very large market in the United States, and there is no reason I can see why the Dominion Government should not throw open those 50,000 acres. It is easy to see how it might be possible, I do not say how it can be done, but I believe that in safeguarding our own Canadian company by keeping up the price of coal and reducing the price of carriage, the Canadian Pacific would be discriminated against, and there should be an independent coal supply from which it can draw its supply, and by which it can in the Boundary country and in Rossland enter into competition with the other railway companies. I have nothing against any of these coal companies, and I have shown to-day I have nothing against this resolution one way or the other. The motion I now move is for the benefit of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I move it on account of the interests of the people, and I therefore am in favour of this motion and I contend that it is entirely for the benefit of the mining industry and in the interest of the people of British Columbia.

PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Gilman moved, Frank Richards seconding—

That all the motions (and discussions thereon) carried by the Convention, together with all the names of all accredited delegates, etc., be printed in pamphlet form and circulated in the right quarters, to be determined by the Executive."

Carried.

THE COMPANIES' ACT.

Moved by W. A. Davis, seconded by Mr. J. B. Hobson:—
"That the Government be urged to repeal all of clause D of the Companies' Act after the word "Notice," line 7, in the said section, and all of clause D in section 133, and all of section 140."

MR. BELYEA—This resolution deals entirely with the subject matter of repealing the power of attorney that is required by the law for foreign companies to register in this Province. I do not think it is acted upon at all, but the gentleman who moved it had probably good reasons for it. The portion of the section struck out is the power that is inserted in that power of attorney for the issuing of stock to corporations and the sub-sections relate simply to the same thing. It is in favour of the repeal of registering powers of attorney.

MR. LANGSTAFF—I think that we have brought in several motions here, the magnitude of which we do not fully grasp, and I move that this latter resolution be submitted to the Executive Committee as they are able to pass better upon them than we are and we have not got the time to consider them.

The motion was carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It appears that the mover of this resolution did not hear that we were putting the question. Shall he now be heard?

MR. DAVIES—I would like to say from my personal knowledge that this power of attorney has kept a vast amount of money out of British Columbia. I know of a great deal of money that was prevented, by this power of attorney, from being invested in this country and it has been commented upon by leading papers of New York, Toronto, Montreal and everywhere else and I do not see why a company should be required to give a power of attorney to any one man to sell his property and to issue stock without any restrictions whatever. The part empowering some person therein named in the power of attorney to act as its attorney and to sue and be sued, etc., that part is all right. No investors object to that, but to add "and to transfer stock and to do all acts and to execute all deeds and other instruments," why should a company be required to have a standing attorney to do this? Now, Mr. Chairman, if you were in New York or London, or any gentlemen here, for instance, and you were asked to invest money under those conditions, I do not think that you would do so. It appears that there is a certain section that modifies it in a certain measure. It allows to omit the words "To issue stock." The registrar has wisely overstepped his authority a little and has left those words off the power of attorney, but the words "to execute deeds and other instruments" are still in the power of attorney which he requires. You will readily see that the law requires a foreign corporation to do that which is impossible; the stock certificates are numbered. How can a company keep a stock book in New York and a stock book in British Columbia and have both gentlemen issue stock and keep those numbers in order? It is an impossibility. Therefore it is an impossibility for any foreign company to do business under this power of attorney and I think in the interests of British Columbia, while I am not interested in any foreign company, yet I think it is in the interest of the whole Province that those words be struck off. If the company wishes to add those powers to the attorney or to give a special power to the agent to sell his property there would be nothing to interfere with it. But this says he shall have a standing power to sell the property. The registrar of titles said when I asked him if he would take the precaution to find out if the accredited agent of the company had authority to make a deed for this property and to register the papers, "No. That power is enough. I would record any instrument they bring to me." Now, is the company to be left to the mercy or to the honesty of any man not to transfer fraudulently the company's property? Under this power of attorney he has the right to sell the property and take the money to go to parts unknown or to mortgage it in any way.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS—I want to endorse what Mr. Davies has said. From my own personal knowledge that clause in the power of attorney has prevented a great deal of capital being invested in this country and it would increase the population greatly by having an increase of capital brought into this country.

Moved by Mr. Hirschfield, seconded by Mr. Gillman, That the Chairman appoint a committee to secure designs and make arrangements for a badge for the Provincial Mining Association which shall be its emblem and for which funds have been subscribed.

Carried.

SUB-DIVISION OF MINERAL CLAIMS FOR TOWNSITE PURPOSES.

Moved by Ralph Smailes, seconded by G. Gaunce:—

"Resolved, That this Association favours amendment to the Mineral Act so that where a mineral claim has been subdivided into townsite lots and plans recorded the mineral rights only without any rights to the surface may be offered

for sale for taxes, and upon such sale being made that the Government have power to vest any surface rights that previously appertained to such mineral claims in the municipality within which it is situate as to streets, lanes and highways, and in the lot owners as to the recorded lots owned by them respectively.

Carried.

The Chairman read a letter from Frank Moberly which was also referred to the Executive Committee.

PROSPECTING IN RAILWAY BELT.

Mr. Curtis introduced a resolution amending a resolution on the minutes of a former session praying the Government to reduce prospectors' fees on railway lands in the Province from \$5 to \$1 per acre.

A Delegate of Victoria—I may say that I am not afflicted very much with talking and I rise to call the attention of this Convention to this supplementary idea of our friend, Mr. Curtis. Judging from the tenor of his remarks I should assume that he is very much in favour of large companies. Now, it so happens that I was born in a coal mining community and it can be said that a very large number of private individuals were able to raise from a nutshell and become prominent members of society and capitalists on their own account. I therefore fear very much that in Mr. Curtis' zeal for companies that he is overlooking the fact that there are a lot of private individuals outside of these companies, and I would ask the Executive Committee to take very good care that in the distribution of these little coal lands that some of us get a chance.

Mr. Pearson seconded the motion of Mr. Curtis.

A Delegate—I would like to move another amendment, that no question of price be admitted. It is stated there that the Government have full power to set its own price. I think we are taking a good deal upon ourselves to say what price the Government should put on.

Amendment seconded.

A Delegate—I move that the price be struck out and "a fair price" put in.

MR. CURTIS—Mr. Gore told me they charged \$5 for every mineral claim located, which, I thought, was a great hardship. These gentlemen have forgotten for the time being that it has been changed very recently from \$5 to \$1 and I would ask that the motion stand to ask the Dominion Government to treat locators in the Province the same as the Province does.

CAPTAIN THOMPSON, of Victoria—I think there is one point that Mr. Curtis and this meeting don't quite understand. The Dominion Government charges this \$1 an acre for the surface rights and compels the locator to buy the surface rights, the Crown grant of which they obtain from the Province. The Provincial Government does not compel the locator to buy the surface rights, but if he wishes to buy the surface rights he has to pay \$5 an acre for it under the law of the Province. The same thing applies in the railway belt on this Island. The locator of a mineral claim inside the railway belt on this Island has to buy the surface rights over and above his mineral right. He is compelled to do it; and so is he if inside the railway belt belonging to the Dominion Government.

MR. GALT—I move that the consideration of this matter also be referred to the Executive Committee, to save time.

MR. CURTIS—There is no necessity for doing that, as we have passed the several resolutions. We claim the Dominion Government is charging \$5 instead of \$1.

MR. GAUNCE—The gentleman who has just sat down claims in the resolution he has introduced that this contains an error

in fact, and I think it is right that this Convention should consider it.

MR. GALT—By way of explanation. It is quite manifest that what Captain Thompson tells us is true and we were all under a mistake of fact when we passed that resolution on Saturday. It is only right that this matter should be threshed out by the Executive Committee.

The question was then put and the matter referred to the Executive Committee.

THE CROWN GRANTING OF PLACER CLAIMS—A PROTEST.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I have here a resolution which I hope you won't pass, for the simple reason that it would open the whole question of re-considering all the subject matter which received the careful attention of nearly the whole of the Convention last week, and I do not think it would be wise to bring this matter up again in the face of the fact that a great number of the delegates have gone home.

Moved by Captain Wolley, seconded by Mr. Hunter, that this meeting do re-consider the resolution passed on Saturday night in reference to the Placer Act.

CAPTAIN WOLLEY—I think, gentlemen, I have a right to speak to that, although, contrary to all precedent, my judge has begun by prejudicing my case and that is surely not fair, gentlemen. To begin with, I have to face greater odds than most men and I know I have the most difficult and most dangerous motion to make that has been made so far at this meeting.

MR. GALT—A point of order. As I understand parliamentary practice, if any one desires to re-consider that which has been already passed upon by the assembly he must give notice on the day the original motion was passed, and if not he cannot bring it up at the same session thereafter.

CAPTAIN WOLLEY—The trouble of the whole thing is this: That we have been asked to consider a large body of matter which we have not had before us. There are a large number of gentlemen present who will tell you that they are opposed to Crown granting. (Cries of "Order.") Are you so afraid—(Cries of "Order.")

A Delegate from Kaslo—I would like to know which side he voted on.

CAPTAIN WOLLEY—Against.

A Delegate from Kaslo—I had an idea that those who voted against had no right to re-consider.

CAPTAIN WOLLEY—Mr. Chairman, we have chosen you because we considered you fair in all respects. The difficulty which arises here and the thing which we want to meet is that we believe that there is a large minority of this body which believes that we have hurried these matters through and not given them sufficient consideration, and while not necessarily opposed to the system of Crown granting, yet we have been asked to swallow too much and have swallowed it too readily. We will be doing our own case harm by rushing these things through. We had on Saturday what we considered was the report of the committee and we dealt with the main issue which was, "Shall Crown grants be granted?" That was all right. That side was presented most eloquently by Mr. Hobson. We did not hear any member rising to ask or explain why those Crown grants be granted; neither did we hear much on the other side why Crown grants should not be granted. All of us sat still saying nothing, when the whole thing was referred to the Government. There was a sort of recommendation made. That was all that it came to.

[Mr. Gaunce here asked whether the Government has any powers to enact laws which do not meet with the approval of this Convention. It means that a resolution has been passed by this Convention, making it an upper chamber, as it

were, which has to be consulted before the Government can do anything.]

CAPT. WOLLEY—Let that question go if you like as far as Crown grants are concerned, but with the swallowing of Crown grants we had shoved down our throats about half a column of the *Colonist* and about half the statutory laws on this particular subject. A lot of us having some conscience—I am speaking for ten or twenty men in the room—felt that if we did not do our duty on Saturday night, and were taken up so quickly by those gentlemen who knew thoroughly well what they wanted, we ought to be allowed to speak now. Our conscience is awake now, and we have swallowed a great deal more than we wanted to swallow, and if we cannot reopen this matter, I want this resolution of mine to stand as a protest on behalf of a very considerable minority of this Convention, who have swallowed inadvertently a great deal of matter which they cannot digest. I come now to a point which will give this meeting the most pleasure. You have suggested that the re-opening of this matter would entail loss of time. That is the only reason which would frighten me from the floor of this Convention, but this Convention has a bigger and more important task to perform, and that is to go down to Fernie, and I am not such a hog to put my conscience ahead of the public welfare. For this we must give way, and we must not pass upon this question because time is so valuable in the interest of the settlement of the Fernie strike. I have been anxious to speak to this resolution and I beg to record the fact that we do not like the system of introducing large doses of matter to us to be swallowed in a hurry. We want to know these things for ourselves and I hope that this protest of mine will be properly registered, against being asked to swallow a whole mass of matter which we cannot digest.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The point of order was this, and I think it would have been better if Captain Wolley had read the resolution over.

MR. CURTIS—We did not adopt the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN—It was simply this, that the Government and Legislature are respectfully requested to give a serious consideration to the recommendations contained in the report of the Placer Mining Committee.

CAPTAIN WOLLEY—Therefore it is necessary to record the protest of the minority who don't agree.

A Delegate—Mr. Hobson brought in a great deal more than explanations and statements were made as to matters of actual facts and I certainly protest that the thing should be allowed to pass as it was passed the other night on the ground alone that the facts were not expressed.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The sentiment of the Convention was emphatic, clear and distinct. There were only two dissensions and those dissensions were Stuart Henderson and my friend, Mr. Hunter.

A Delegate—I was in favour and a good deal in favour of Crown grants, but there were other matters besides Crown grants given to that Committee, and I think it is on account of these matters that these objections are brought up. There were serious objections taken to other than Crown grants which questions I would like to see thoroughly explained because that matter is, I think, at the bottom of this hydraulic question. The water question is at the bottom of the hydraulic question. You can only work one hydraulic proposition on those grounds. I do not know just the law and that is why we want an explanation and this is why the Government should not act hastily. I for one, although while I do not wish to see this matter re-opened, I do say that it was not carried by such a large majority and I believe that if this matter had been taken up thoroughly there would not have been that unanimous vote passed upon it.

MAYOR BURRELL—I only want to rise for the purpose of trying to pour a little oil on the troubled waters. I do realize

that the gentlemen representing the placer industry have placed this report before the committee, and it has received the large endorsement of this Convention, but I think there is some way Mr. Wolley might possibly re-consider that resolution in which it can be shown that it was not unanimous. I only speak as an outsider, because I think it was a mistake to let that report of the committee go in unanimously, because there is a conflict of opinion on some details.

CAPT. WOLLEY—The only way is to make a protest.

MR. GAUNCE—I asked Saturday evening that that question be gone into section by section and explained in order that we might vote intelligently on it, and the motion was made that that report be referred and the Executive be invited to enquire carefully into those conditions. As such I voted in favour of it, and as such I am prepared to stand by it now. I am reminded by these colors which are all about us that we have been sitting under the shadow of the battle of Paardeberg, and if our boys at Paardeberg had changed their minds every twenty minutes, there would be no Paardeberg to go down into history. (Applause.)

MR. P. J. PEARSON—I sat here and listened to these motions. When the argument first started I was convinced that Crown granting of placer claims ought to be voted down. I sat here and said nothing. I watched the proceedings of the meeting and when the old gentleman (Mr. Moore) got up and owing to his speech in favour of Crown grants it seemed to have the effect of an electric current over the audience; the motion was carried. I fully believe that that gentlemen, Mr. Moore, carried that motion, but I understood afterwards that Mr. Moore was working for Mr. Hobson.

MR. HOBSON—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: It is true I give James Moore employment, and I ask you if I should be condemned for employing old prospectors like James Moore and giving them an opportunity to earn money to enable them to do the assessment work and hold their placer mining leases? I have given old prospectors the preference of work ever since I have been engaged in mining, and will continue to do so as long as I remain in the business. James Moore was sent as a delegate to this Convention by the Quesnelle Lake branch, whose members are all prospectors like himself, and he came here at his own expense to voice their wishes on the floor of this Convention. Mr. Pearson knew James Moore as long and as well as many of the pioneers of British Columbia who are now among the delegates at this Convention. He should not insinuate that James Moore was influenced by me to make an argument in favour of Crown grants for placers. That is all I have to say, gentlemen. (Applause.)

The question for a re-consideration was then put and the motion lost.

It was moved by P. J. Pearson (Chemainus), seconded by J. V. Purviance (Slocan) That this Convention urge upon the Government of British Columbia the necessity of expending more money in building trails and roads through the mining districts to give prospectors and miners an opportunity of reaching the interior of Vancouver Island and the Province in general.

Moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Higgins, that the motion be referred to the Executive Committee.

Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Moved by Mr. Gallop, seconded by Mr. Stork, That the Government be asked to amend the Companies Act so that it shall be unlawful to sell or offer for sale stock in any mineral claims other than placer unless such claims shall have been Crown granted.

Motion lost.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

A resolution presented by Frank Richards, of Vancouver,

urging the Government to seek representation for British Columbia on the Alaskan Boundary Commission was read.

MR. LUGRIN—I move that the consideration of this resolution be indefinitely postponed, as it seems to me that this is not the proper place to bring a matter of this kind up.

MR. RICHARDS—I was only going to make a few remarks. I contend that this matter is one that does concern miners, and especially the miners in the Yukon, and Northern British Columbia, and in British Columbia as a whole, and if you knew as much about this matter as I do, you would feel very strongly about the American action. Whenever they have an opportunity of getting into our own country they do so, and I may tell you that in 1898 I had occasion to go North, and when I got to Saint Michael's I was met by quite a new regiment of customs officials, and before we could get into the British port on the Yukon we had a most terrible time. They made us make a return of every pound of goods we had with us on our expedition and it took us several days, whereas they might easily have allowed us to go through their portion of the territory without all this extra trouble. This treaty which was signed at Washington in 1903, with three on each side, should have been able to decide a question of this sort, but it is apparently ineffectual, because we know that the Americans will never give way to us one single inch, but it is possible if it was thought to be fair by the British that they might give away, but it would be just a case of heads I win and tails you lose by the Americans. I want you in British Columbia to show you do not approve of this being done to people in this country of ours, and you people who have to go to Skagway would be able to give great testimony in what I am saying. At the time the treaty was signed by Great Britain and Russia, in 1825, I contend there was very little known about this country. The other treaty which deals with this question was signed between Russia and the United States in 1867, but gentlemen, there are so many subsidiary questions which should be thought out in connection with this matter, I think it is only right that British Columbia should make her voice heard, and especially the mining community, to which this question is of vital interest.

A Delegate from Victoria—If you pass this resolution you will pay a distinct compliment to the English, and you will pass a slur on the American public. The Canadians have confidence in the British Empire, and there are people in this country who have no confidence in their own statesmen. I say, gentlemen, it is a slur on the States and on the Canadians to pass such a resolution.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS—From my past experience and knowledge of the British Government I have no fault to find with it, and I do not wish to have it understood that I am casting any reflections on either side. Some of my best friends are in the United States. Possibly the majority of my friends are there. It is a national question, and we must speak for ourselves, and the United States will look after themselves.

MR. LUGRIN—Mr. Richards give us as his reason for moving this that he has suffered some inconvenience. Well, as a matter of fact, there are few people who have had more loss, and suffered more loss by reason of the Skagway regulations than myself, but neither my losses nor Mr. Richards' have anything to do with the great national question, and I do not think that this body should at this late hour and without discussion enter upon and endeavour to pronounce an opinion on this subject, especially as we are asked to cast a reflection on the faith of the British people in the Imperial Government. I think this matter had better be indefinitely postponed and discussed in some other place.

A Delegate—I just want to ask if this is a mining subject. We are here to discuss mining subjects alone and this is purely of a political character. Therefore, I say, let us drop it.

The motion was lost.

MR. LUGRIN—I have a short formal resolution to move—That the Secretary be instructed to forward the several resolutions adopted to the proper quarter. That was omitted in the several resolutions that were passed. While I am on my feet, and as it is so near the close of the Convention, I think I can undertake to say that this Convention has far more than exceeded the expectations of the Association when we began to make arrangements for this gathering, and although at the time it seemed that we were doing a good deal to make this Convention a success, yet what we did sinks into insignificance in comparison with the results that have been achieved, and the people of Victoria would gladly have done ten times what it did to have made this Convention what it has been.

MR. HIGGINS—I second the resolution.

The motion was carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—I would like to ask your indulgence for one moment, as there is a gentleman here who has been sent to watch carefully the acts and deeds of this Convention, and he would like to address you. He has been sent here by a party of capitalists in the United States of America, and I think it would be a courtesy to listen to him. I call upon Mr. Robinson.

MR. HUNTER—I hope that we will have a chance to reply to any controversial matter that Mr. Robinson may bring forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN—That would be extremely discourteous.

THE VIEWS OF A MINING PROMOTER.

MR. ROBINSON—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: I became very much interested the beginning of last year in the mining resources of British Columbia. I have been in the bond and banking business for a number of years in close contact with large amount of capital, and having met a gentleman coming from the Atlin District, who came to my office with a letter of introduction from a large responsible firm in the State of Pennsylvania, and being introduced as a reliable man, it was then I heard the story of this wonderful mining camp, and I went to Atlin last year in order to investigate for myself the statements which he made. When the notice of this association's meeting came to my address in Philadelphia, notwithstanding the fact I am a very busy man, I determined to steal a few days out of my busy life to cross the continent, and take a long, arduous trip to keep in touch with and meet the men who are interested in the mining development of this great Province. And, gentlemen, I am glad I have come, because it has never been my pleasure to meet a more earnest, sincere and intelligent body of men assembled in a convention. I have been wonderfully impressed with the remarkable fairness of this Convention, with the broad liberality of ideas expressed by the men on this floor, and the small percentage of personal, prejudicial accusations. I have been very much impressed with the sincere and earnest desire of the men to get down to some adequate basis on which they could work for the best interests of the Province, and have been very much impressed with the fact that little personal enmities and little personal gratifications have not been emphasized. In regard to the deliberations of this body, you, gentlemen, do not adequately appreciate what it really means. I have talked to capital in the East, with which I am in touch, in regard to the mineral resources of British Columbia. These gentlemen all admit you have the most remarkable mineral country in the world, and I have talked with men with millions of dollars to invest, and while they all admit you have the most remarkable mineral deposits, and are most anxious to invest their money under proper conditions, yet at the same time when the subject has been broached to them of investing in your Province, they turn up your Placer Mining Act. They say, "We have no doubt in regard to the mineral wealth of British Columbia, but it is not for us to put our capital into a country where the Placer Act is so ambitious," as they do



Members of the Executive Committee of Provincial Mining Association.

not know what security they have. When I received the notice of this meeting I said, "The mining men of British Columbia, and the Government of British Columbia are waking up, and I am going to go to the awakening." Now, gentlemen, you realize as well as I do that the one thing which is necessary to the development of this great country is capital. You cannot do very much without it, and I know capitalists that have come into this country, earnest and sincere, with the purpose of development and the conditions which have been laid upon them have been so onerous they have had to retire from the field. You gentlemen have no conception of the effect that the deliberations of this body are having upon the entire East. I am sending out the papers every day to my different correspondents and these men throughout the East are telling the people that the Province of British Columbia are holding out an inducement and opening a gate for the first time to the capital of the world, telling it to "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (Cheers.) The question of the Crown granting of placer leases is one of the most important propositions which you have had before you, and I want to say this, and it is to your credit, that you have deliberated and passed upon that question as you should. You have offered stability of title as a security for the investment of capital, and I concur in it. One of the other important points which has been spoken of by your honourable premier has been the two per cent. tax. Gentlemen, I think it is wrong at all times to put a tax on success. There is nothing original in failure, but there is a whole lot of originality in success. It is too bad to say to a man who has worked hard and is able to make a small amount of money over and above the amount of money expended in the development of his claim, that he has to pay a two per cent. tax on his success, while the lazy or unsuccessful man is allowed to go Scot free. Another thing, gentlemen, I want to say, and that is that the two per cent. tax puts a premium upon dishonesty. The Government of this Province received, I believe, \$80,000 as the result of the two per cent. tax, the most ridiculous thing which has ever been heard of. I know from my own personal knowledge where men have accumulated through their hard labours and diggings an immense amount of gold in Atlin, and they would boast of the fact in Seattle that they paid no two per cent. tax. I say that the Government under the Crown granting of placer claims will receive a larger revenue than they ever received before by an allowed to go Scot free. Another thing, gentlemen, I want to say, gentlemen, that you have made my task very easy, and I believe if the Executive Committee will do the work that you gentlemen have begun, and if the Government of this country, recognizing this great general demand for an amendment to the Placer and Mineral Acts will immediately, speedily and fairly give to the capitalistic class in the United States, or in Canada, the opportunities which they are asking to come in and put their money in your country that you will see in a short time British Columbia at the top of the list as the greatest mineral producing country under the sun to-day. Gentlemen, I am sensible to the courtesy which you have extended to me in allowing me to speak on this floor this morning, not being a delegate; but I want to say, although I am not a delegate my heart and my soul and my interests are in the mining industry of British Columbia, and I am putting into the Atlin district this year a large amount of machinery, installing a big electrical power plant, and the most modern mining dredge that has ever been put in by any mining company to work the placers of the Atlin district, and I have been asked when I started out here by a number of men who have said to me: "Mr. Robinson, if when you go out there, and find that those fellows are reasonable and want to give the adequate security, why I think we can give you all the capital you want for any honest, legitimate mining proposition." (Hear, hear.) The question which comes before us to-day, and one which we cannot get over is this. Each one of us who have been engaged in mining enterprise know something about the trials and tribulations which we have had. I know in the Atlin camp this year there has been litigation after litigation. The placer mining felt himself aggrieved, and the hydraulic miner had to stop

work because he was interfered with in the development of his claims. Now, the point we want to get at is the absolute unanimity of idea for success, and you may then be assured of a glorious future for British Columbia. I thank you, gentlemen, for this courtesy which you have extended to me. (Applause.)

MR. CHAIRMAN—The United States Consul has favoured us with his presence here this morning, and I am requested to ask you if you would like to hear from him. (Applause.)

SPEECH OF THE AMERICAN CONSUL.

HON. ABRAHAM E. SMITH (American Consul)—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I thank you very much for this privilege of addressing the most representative body that I have ever seen in British Columbia. It has been my fortune to be here over five years now, and I have been present at many gatherings in this city, but none where I have seen gathered so much of the intelligence of the Province. I recognize, as all of you must recognize, that it is as a mining province that British Columbia can expect to assume a leading position. Mining is the great industry of the Province. Your mountains and your valleys are permeated with large deposits, which with proper development will make British Columbia the premier mining province of Canada. You have in the soil of British Columbia gold equal to the Yukon. You have coal as plentiful as in Pennsylvania. You have copper even as in Montana, and all you want are men like this gentleman (Mr. Robinson) who has just spoken here to-day to take hold of and develop your country. Gentlemen, I am rejoiced to see that you are resolved to open wide the doors and let the capital of the world come in and furnish the sinews of war to develop this magnificent Province and reap the grand harvest that is in store for properly directed enterprise. There have been some sad mistakes made in the past, but "to err is human, to forgive divine." I know there are capitalists who are looking upon British Columbia as a good place to invest when the regulations are such as to enable them to proceed. The tendency of the world is to bring manufacturing industries to the bases of supply. Thus, if the resources of this Province are developed huge manufacturing plants will spring up. As you see the canneries on the Fraser River; and as you see the manufacture of pulp where the pines are, so you see the smelters where the mines are. If you develop the mines of British Columbia, you will see as the outcome that your Province will be built up, and you will have large manufacturing centres like Pittsburg where the smelters will come, and you will make British Columbia, instead of being a Province of 100,000 or 170,000 inhabitants, reach us side by side with Quebec and Ontario, and then there will be no more complaints here that men cannot find employment, or that to make money they must go elsewhere. British Columbia has wonderful opportunities, it seem to me. You have besides your minerals the wealth of the fisheries; you have the ocean at your doors, and with proper legislation, and with proper encouragement, you must march on the highway of success. Now, I am not here to give advice, nor am I here to tell you what to do. Such gentlemen as you are know more than I do; but it seems to me that a very practical plan would be to formulate here what you want, and then to get the Legislature to adopt it. The Premier of the Province is here, and his home and interests are in the Province. Get him to carry in the Legislature what you have done here, and after this legislation is passed, get them to adjourn for two years, and give you a good chance to act upon it. What you want here is what we have got in the United States, and that is to have your Legislature meet only once in two years. We have suffered here from too much legislation and too many changes in the laws. Once get them right, then stand by them. This eternal meddling with laws is a damage to business. We have prosperity now in the United States because we have had a tariff there without any change for nearly six years, for above all things business wants stability in legislation. The great problem of capital and labour

which you have been trying here to solve is the greatest of the age, and I hope your efforts in this direction will prove successful. Gentlemen, I thank you for the attention you have given me and for the honour of addressing you. (Loud cheers.)

MAYOR BURRELL—I will hurry through the few remarks that I have to make, and will try to cut them as short as possible. I might say, in response to the circulars issued by the provisional secretary, which reached all parts of this country, I endeavoured to form a local organization, and I was told by some it was a Provincial Mining Association, and was assured by them I was giving advice on a thing that I did not know anything about which was like the advice the darkey gave to the man who was going to New York: "Don't you touch anything that you don't know anything about." I recognized, however, gentlemen, that this movement was to be unanimous, and was as far as possible to be of a colloquial character, and that the great object of this movement was that it should unite all classes, and therefore they were all requested to join in. We joined in the very large number, and I think those who knew nothing about mining before they came here have done much to save the situation. Some gentlemen, I have no doubt, have come with some axes to grind. That is absolutely necessary, gentlemen. You all know the story of the gallant colonel, who before going away invited his friend up to have a drink with him. They had a drink out of the jug, and then the colonel put it back in his trunk. He put it in the centre and kept wrapping the clothes around it to make it hold solid, and at last it was so solid he could scarcely move it, it was in so tight. He said, "Now, don't you think it looks safe?" His friend said, "It looks safe enough, but are you not afraid of it spoiling your clothes?" And he said, "Oh, blast the clothes, the whiskey has got to be protected." Now, some people lay stress on the whiskey, and some lay stress on the clothes, but for prosperity it is necessary that we should all work together and lay stress on both. That is one feeling I had in coming here to this Convention, and I may say that I believe the middle class who interested themselves in this matter have done very much to pour oil on the troubled waters, and to show that the capitalist and labourer alike were all bound up together, and are going to do the best they can to promote the mining industry in every conceivable way. There was one thing which particularly attracted me, and I know it attracted a great many gentlemen, in coming to this Convention, and that was, there was a passionate desire on the part of the people of this country to see some movement encouraged to settle the difference between capital and labour, and it was in response to that appeal many came here, and some assured us it was a ticklish subject, and better left alone, but if we had said that at the outset of the Convention and acted accordingly your Convention would not have been such a success as it has. It is with unbounded pleasure that I have seen the success we have met with, and I feel that it was a wise course to take to have capital and labour meet together, and yet at the same time not to introduce controversial subjects. I consider it is a great thing achieved. Then there is another point, and that was this. We have Col. Prior here to-day, and other members of the Government have been here, and I am sure that the strength and sincerity of this Convention have impressed the Government in a way they have never been impressed before. What did we achieve, gentlemen? I think all those capitalists and all those special mining men who have been sent here will grant that we have achieved much in the amending of laws, and in making valuable suggestions to the Government, which, I think, has been an immense gain. There are other ways in which we have gained; but I think our chief gain is to show the world that British Columbia has at last arrived at the determination to promote the interests of our Province. (Applause.) And over and above that—for I believe moral ends to be above material ends—I can say that the finest thing we have achieved is that the lamb and the tiger they can now lie down together in peace,

and we have advanced in this Province the Brotherhood of Man. (Applause.)

MR. CHAIRMAN—I am requested by His Worship the Mayor to read this letter to you:

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 28, 1903.

To the President of the Provincial Mining Association, Victoria, B. C.

"SIR,—I have much pleasure, as Mayor of the City of Victoria, in extending to the Provincial Mining Association a hearty invitation to hold their next Annual Convention in this city. In doing so I wish to convey to the members of the Association the assurance of the citizens that they feel deeply the importance to British Columbia of the Convention now closing, and of the very great moral effect its deliberations and conclusions must have upon the affairs of the Province.

"I desire, also, to express the pleasure it has given us to have you all with us. In fact we appreciate this so much that we hope to have you visit us for the same purpose on many future occasions.

"I have the honour to be, sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"A. G. McCANDLESS."

There is also another invitation from the Tourist Association:—

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 28, 1903.

John Keen, Esq., President of the Provincial Mining Association.

"SIR,—I must, on behalf of the Tourist Association, express to you the pleasure it has given this Association to see such a magnificent Convention of the most representative character ever called together in British Columbia meet in this city.

"I hope your stay has been a pleasant as well as a profitable one, and desire on behalf of this Association and the citizens generally to extend to you a sincere and hearty invitation to hold your next Convention in Victoria, believing that as the Capital of the Province you will find it the most suitable for your deliberations.

"Yours faithfully,

"CHAS. HAYWARD,

President Victoria Tourist Association."

MR. CHAIRMAN—There is another resolution which has been handed up:—

Moved by F. A. Devereaux, of Hedley, and seconded by Captain Livingston Thompson. "Resolved, That in view of the ambiguity of many of the clauses of the Mineral and Placer Acts that the Government be asked to revise and consolidate these Acts and place them in as clear an concise language as possible so as to make them more intelligible, and it is hoped that they will consult with the Executive Committee of this Association on this matter.

The motion was carried.

Moved by E. P. Gilman, seconded by Frank Richards—That all the motions and discussions thereon carried by the Convention together with the names of all accredited delegates, etc., etc., be printed in pamphlet form and circulated in the right quarters to be determined by the Executive.

MR. LUGRIN—I beg to move that this be referred to the Executive Committee.

Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Here is another one referring to the assessment work on Crown granted mineral claims, moved by W. A. Davies, and seconded by Mr. Alexander—

"Resolved, That the Government be urged not to require the recording of assessments on un-Crown granted mineral claims, but to tax un-Crown granted mineral claims the sum of \$2.50; this tax to be collected in the same manner as Crown granted mineral claims."

The motion was lost.

MR. CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, a resolution was passed on Thursday by which the Government were asked to do certain things. That is, on the Board of Conciliation and in the minutes I notice that they have forgotten to provide who were to select a chairman, and I would ask that this be put in: "In the event of failure to agree on a chairman, the selection shall be left in the hands of the Chief Justice of the Province of British Columbia."

The motion was carried.

MR. GAUNCE—I move that the thanks of this Convention be hereby tendered to the Mayor and City Council of Victoria for their very great kindness in giving us the use of this magnificent place to hold our meetings in.

MAYOR DEAN, of Rossland—That motion is not seconded, and I would ask Mr. Gaunce to put it in a different form. We have just received a nice invitation from His Worship the Mayor and the President of the Tourist Association. Now, gentlemen, I am sure I can express the gratification of everyone in the room, and for myself I have been very much gratified with the kindness extended to us by the citizens of Rossland—(Laughter)—Victoria, I should say, gentlemen. I guess I made the mistake in saying Rossland, for I was thinking if they intended holding their Convention at any other place next year, that Rossland was the most important point to my mind. I think, however, it would be a very graceful compliment in return for the very courteous treatment we have received here if we adopted Victoria as the meeting place of our next Convention. I say this in the face of a very strong desire on my own part that these gentlemen should visit our camp, which is one of the leading mining camps in British Columbia. Taking it in connection with the City of Victoria as a whole, perhaps we are not quite up to the mark, but as this question is likely to come up I desire to call the attention of the Convention to the fact that it would be a very graceful compliment in return to the Mayor and citizens of Victoria for their kindness to us to adopt this as our next meeting place, if Mr. Gaunce will permit me to make a resolution embodying his own.

MR. GAUNCE—Certainly.

MAYOR DEAN—Very well, sir. I make that a resolution—That this Convention, acknowledging as we do the very great courtesy and hospitality which has been extended to us, and dealt out to us by the Mayor and citizens of Victoria, we now adopt this city as our next meeting place for our Annual Convention.

MAYOR BURRELL—Might I be allowed to make one suggestion, and I do not want to be thought out of harmony at all, as I cannot conceive of a more beautiful place in which to hold our meetings, but a great many who have left this Convention may feel differently, as there may be a feeling on the part of a great many of the members that it should be held at some other place so as to show its truly provincial character, and for that reason—not that I do not want it to be held in Victoria—but wouldn't it be better to leave it in the hands of the Executive Committee? I think it would be a graceful concession to the whole of the members throughout the Province. I just leave that as a suggestion.

A Delegate—Does not the Constitution provide that we hold these meetings at Victoria?

MR. HIGGINS—The words of the Constitution—Section 4 of Article 2—are "A General Convention of this Association shall be held annually in Victoria, or such other place as may be selected by the preceding Annual Convention, the date to be fixed by the Executive Committee." So the Convention must fix the place.

MR. FRANK RICHARDS—As representing Vancouver I agree with all that has been said. We all resolved that we would do just as the delegates of the Interior wished. We would not ask them to come to Vancouver unless they wished. If they wished to go to Vancouver, or if they wished to go to the Interior it was all the same to us, and personally I do not think Vancouver has any objection to coming to Victoria.

MR. CHAIRMAN—The question is that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to His Worship the Mayor of Victoria for the grand way in which they have taken care of the Convention while visiting in Victoria, and that the next meeting of the Convention be held in the City of Victoria.

A Delegate—I beg to second my friend Mayor Burrell's suggestion that the choice of place for our next meeting be left to a vote of the Executive Committee.

MAYOR BURRELL—As I read it, that will necessitate an amendment to the Constitution. If that is so I withdraw my amendment. I only proposed it in order to promote harmony, but I do not want to move an amendment to the Constitution.

A Delegate—I also withdraw from seconding Mayor Burrell's resolution.

The question was then put and the motion carried that Victoria be the next place of the Convention. (Cheers.)

MR. HIGGINS—Let me on behalf of the Victoria delegates and of my fellow citizens return thanks for the remarkable consideration that you have shown this lovely place, and to say that we all appreciate your efforts to place our mining laws upon an equitable and proper basis. We also feel ourselves honoured greatly by the presence of so many bright, intelligent and responsible men who have attended this Convention and given their time and attention to improving our mining laws, and who have put their hands in their pockets to make this movement a success. I may say this of the City of Victoria, that when the next Annual Convention is held, and the mountains shall have again spoken to the sea, as it were, we shall be more able and more willing to make it more convenient and pleasant for you, and we will put forward every exertion to do that. You may go away with the assurance that your attendance in this city has been and will always be greatly appreciated.

MR. J. B. HOBSON, of Bullion—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: Words, however appropriate or carefully selected, would fail to impress upon your minds the sensations that pulsate from the bottom of my heart at this moment. I would be a man of stone were I not enthused over the successful organization of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia. By the adoption of a splendid Constitution you have laid a foundation for the Association that is as firm and solid as adamant and which will be the means of keeping the Association alive as long as mines are being worked in British Columbia. In conclusion, I desire to say to you, gentlemen, that it is well known among the gentlemen associated with me in efforts to bring about the organization you have just completed that I had no aspirations for office, and preferred to continue as an earnest worker in the ranks. I therefore regret heartily that my absence on committee work deprived me of the honour of placing in nomination the names of my choice—Mr. John Keen, of Kaslo, for President, and Mr. D. W. Higgins for Vice-President of this Association—both gentlemen who are pioneers, widely known and respected throughout British Columbia; and, I must say, the ablest parliamentarians I have ever met. I desire to express my hearty appreciation of the honour you have conferred upon me by electing me your First Vice-President, and let me assure you that my efforts

will never slacken in the miner's cause whether I am a private in the ranks or one of the officers in command.

MR. LUGRIN—I propose three hearty cheers for Mr. J. B. Hobson, the founder of this Association.

Carried, the delegates rising to their feet and cheering with enthusiasm.

MR. GAUNCE—We must not overlook the fact when we first came here we were the recipients of the kind hospitality of the local Board of Trade for some time, and I think it is only right that I should move that we express our hearty thanks to the Secretary of the Board of Trade, and also the Tourist Association for their many acts of kindness to us whilst in the city.

Carried with cheers.

MR. SMITH CURTIS—I think there is one body which is being entirely overlooked, and that is the Provisional Executive of the Provincial Mining Association. These gentlemen gave their services, as far as we know, freely, the great majority at any rate did, and they have done a great amount of work. When I mention one item I am sure they deserve above all others the thanks of this assembly, because the preliminary work is what has made this Convention so successful. I am informed they sent out 32,000 circulars prior to the calling of this Convention, and the work done by Mr. Hobson and the other gentlemen who belonged to that Executive has made this Convention the most successful, I venture to say, ever seen in Carifornia or any other country, and I therefore move that a hearty vote of thanks be given to the Provisional Executive Committee.

MR. TOWNSEND seconded the motion.

Carried amid cheers.

Three cheers were then given to Mr. Keen, Chairman of the Convention.

It was then moved and seconded that the Convention stand adjourned *sine die*.

Carried, the delegates rising and singing "God Save the King."

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE FERNIE STRIKE.

THE following is the report of the Conciliation Committee appointed by the Provincial Mining Association to endeavour to bring about a settlement of the Fernie strike:

"FERNIE, B. C.,
"March 24th, 1903.

"To the Executive Committee, Provincial Mining Association.

"Your committee appointed in convention assembled on February 28th last with instructions to proceed at once to Fernie and inquire into the strike there in progress in the collieries of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., Ltd., with a view to effecting a settlement of the same, have the honour to submit the following report.

"The commission left Victoria on March 2nd and 3rd and assembled at Fernie on Saturday, 7th of March. It organized for work on Monday morning, March 9th, President Keen, of the Association, acting as chairman, and W. G. Gaunce being elected secretary. The situation was found to be very serious, over 1,300 men being out on strike, and expressing confidence in the justice of their position. The employing company, on the other hand, expressed equal assurance of the tenability of its position, and no thought of concession was anywhere apparent. The gravity of the situation and the effect of the industrial disturbance became daily and hourly more impressed upon the commission by the receipt by telegram and otherwise of its far reaching results. From the mining and smelting industries of Rossland, Nelson, Trail

and Boundary districts, came reliable news of distress and injury, mines and smelters being closed and large forces of men thrown out of employment by the cessation of the fuel supply from this point. The commission early recognized the heavy responsibility of the task imposed upon it and settled to work with the conviction that tact and patient effort alone could relieve the situation and bring about what was highly desirable—a lasting peace founded upon equitable terms.

"The coal company afforded the commission every facility to get at the facts of the case so far as wages paid was concerned, giving it free access to the company's books; while the local union, represented through their executives and the district union executive, met the commission in a most trustful and becoming spirit, and pledged assistance in the work undertaken. Mr. G. F. Dougherty, president of the district union No. 6, W. F. of M., was present the entire time, advising the committees of the striking miners in their deliberations, and while showing himself the spokesman and champion of organized labour, revealing himself at the same time as the friend of justice to all. His evident devotion to the cause entrusted to him must have made every member of the executive his trusty admirer, even as it made every member of the commission his friend.

"The alleged causes of the strike were multiplied and may be summarized briefly as follows: A distrust of the company's management, quite as much that of the company's inferior, as of its superior officers; a failure on the part of the company to recognize the different local and district unions, and to treat with their officers and committees; the disinclination of the company to sell or lease lands of Morrissey and Michel to the unions upon which to erect places of meeting; a system of espionage in the various local and district unions practised by the company; the system of back-hand labour in vogue and the existence of a defectively arranged wage-scale whereby the men were unable to earn equal wages. Lesser subjects of complaint were wash-house charges, tare of cars and conditions of management which made the earning capacity of the miner ineffective. The eight and a half hour day required of the men in underground work was also a cause of complaint.

"The commission held thirty-four sessions of its entire body, had many interviews through sub-committees, with the management on one hand and with the men on the other; made a visit to the Coal Creek mines, and looked into the matters of complaints as to size and weight of cars and rules governing wash-houses and lamps, and examined on request of the district executive committee thirty-one witnesses under oath.

"The results of the commission's investigations justified the position taken by the men in some matters but not in others. Your commission believe that in the aggregate good wages are being paid by the company to its miners and employees outside of the coke oven men, and furthermore believes that with amended practices in view and promised by the company the former will be more equitably distributed and the wages of the coke oven men increased.

"From time to time during the progress of the work the district executive committee and the mine management were brought together through the medium of this commission, and feature after feature of the causes of irritation were discussed. The entire matter was finally adjusted, and resolved into an agreement between the contending parties.

"We have the honour to herewith subscribe ourselves.

"JOHN KEEN,
President.

"W. G. GAUNCE,
Secretary.

"C. FOLEY,

"FREDERICK KEFFER,

"M. P. McANDREW,

"H. G. SEAMEN,

"A. C. FLUMERFELT."

The following appreciative letter was addressed by Mr. Tonkin, General Manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, in acknowledgment of the services rendered by the Conciliation Committee of the Provincial Mining Association:

"FERNIE, B.C.,
"April 6th, 1903.

"John, Keen, Esq., President Provincial Mining Association,
Kaslo, B.C.

"Dear Sir,—On behalf of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company I wish to tender my sincere thanks for the splendid work done by your Conciliation Committee during your recent visit to Fernie, as I feel that without the aid of the Committee, the coal mines of this company would have been idle for a longer period than they actually were.

"The work as performed by the Conciliation Committee was very satisfactory indeed to the company and myself, and I certainly feel that very few committees would have handled the matter with the tact as demonstrated by you, and leave with the good feeling that certainly prevailed during the term of your visit.

"Very truly yours,

"JOHN H. TONKIN,
"General Manager."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Canadian Government have made a move in the right direction in establishing an assay office in Vancouver, but in order to give Canada the full benefit of the gold she is producing, they should take further active steps towards holding this gold in Canada. At the present time the bulk of Canadian gold is refined in Seattle and San Francisco, and the United States Government practically receives the credit for producing this gold and derives all the benefits in connection with its refining and treatment. The Canadian assay office, to be of real value, should be placed in a position to purchase gold brick on exactly the same basis as it is purchased at Seattle and San Francisco, and if this were done, there would be no difficulty about establishing a refinery at Vancouver for the treatment of the twelve odd millions of dollars of gold annually coming from the British Yukon. This would be entirely in accord with the plans of the Government to finally establish a mint at Ottawa for the coining of sovereigns, minted in Canada; and the free circulation of these throughout the British Empire would certainly be as good an advertisement of Canada's resources as could be had, for the amount that it would cost the Government. It would further have the effect of bringing about, in the very near future, the establishment of a refinery in Canada, with all its direct and indirect benefits. Under present conditions, if a refinery were started at Vancouver, it would be at a disadvantage as compared to Seattle, for the reason that the refinery would be compelled to pay the expressage from Vancouver to Seattle—that being the nearest and best market for the sale of the fine gold. It has been claimed by those opposed to the establishment of a mint in Canada, that the country is a large exporter of gold, and has no particular use for it in the country itself; but as the Canadian banks carry large reserves of British and American gold, it is difficult to understand why it would not be just as convenient and just as good for them, to carry their gold reserves in the form of British sovereigns coined in Canada.

Whatever Mr. Kirby's enemies may have to say to his discredit, none of them would deny that he is anything but the most conscientious and conservative of men. He does not, for example, permit exaggerated statements concerning the properties he manages to be published without contradic-

tion, and it would not be a bad thing altogether if other mine managers followed his lead in this regard. There was recently circulated a somewhat inflated report of a big "strike" at depth in the Centre Star. In an interview published the other day in the *Rossland Miner* Mr. Kirby made the following statement:

"It is true," he remarked, "that the breast of the cross-cut on the sixth level east is moving in pay ore. We do not, however, regard this as extraordinary in view of the fact that the workings on the ore bodies will frequently run into paystreaks and then alternate to milling ore. This occurs often, and it is only seldom that the fact leaks out and assumes the magnitude of a 'strike.' Our policy is not to divulge information of this nature, but we do not wish the report in circulation to attain proportions that may have a serious after affect. Weeks of work will be required before present conditions could be construed as extraordinary, and in the meantime we regard the situation as an ordinary incident in the operation of the Centre Star such as is encountered from time to time. I desire to point this out so that the facts may not be exaggerated."

There appears now to be some chance that the Metropolitan Gold and Silver Mining Co. operating in the Lardeau, will be conscientiously managed. According to a recent official report the directors no longer approve of our friend, the "Rev." Chas. W. McCrossan, the Board at a recent meeting unanimously adopting the following resolution: "That Chas. W. McCrossan be, and he is hereby removed and discharged from the office of secretary of the company." Previous to this, however, at what was seemingly a general meeting of shareholders, McCrossan was requested to release a claim he had against the company amounting to \$49,714. It is reported that he agreed "to release \$39,714 in consideration of a payment of \$10,000 to be made in August. Thereupon a unanimous vote of thanks was passed "to Charles W. McCrossan for the generous spirit he has manifested in turning over his present holdings of money and stock to the company so as to advance the interests of the Metropolitan Gold and Silver Mining Company." We confess to sympathizing with Mr. McCrossan. This is truly a degenerate age. To coolly ask a man to make you a present of forty thousand dollars and then after he complies promptly turn round and sack him from office, is surely a piece of shocking ingratitude.

While, of course, the chief credit of effecting a settlement of the Fernie strike is due to the Conciliation Committee of the Provincial Mining Association, it is questionable whether the matters in dispute would have been so easily and so satisfactorily arranged had the attitude of the officers of the Western Federation of Miners at Fernie been less fair and reasonable. Many of us, on what we believe to be very proper grounds, strongly disapprove of the Federation as an alien institution whose acts are largely beyond the control of provincial authority; but it must certainly be admitted that as yet the Federation has exerted an influence altogether in the direction of good, by discouraging rather than by encouraging strikes, and by the moderation of its councils, assisting materially in the early adjustment of disputes when they have arisen. In the present instance we have to congratulate the Fernie representative of the W. F. M., Mr. George Dougherty, for the considerable part played by him in bringing to a termination a strike which threatened to paralyze all mining effort in the Interior.

The mine and other property of the Consolidated Alberni Gold Mining Company, Limited, are about to be transferred to a new company, capitalized in \$10,000, in return for the discharge of a mortgage and other liabilities of the vendor company, not exceeding \$6,000, and an agreement by the new company that it will allot to the old one-fourth of any share capital issued in excess of the first capital of \$10,000. Twelve thousand dollars have, it is stated, been expended on the mine itself, and some \$25,000 on a mountain road connection, so

that the transfer—practically a reconstruction of the company—is considered to be effected on good terms.

Few mines in British Columbia have been worse handled than the Alberni Consolidated, and that is saying a great deal. However, it is hoped that under capable direction the property, which is not an unpromising one, may yet be profitably worked.

Writing to the *MINING RECORD* in reference to the recently organized Provincial Mining Association the Hon. J. H. Turner, the Province's Agent-General in London, expresses the following opinion: "I have read with much interest the report of the meetings of the Association, and am impressed with the admirable way in which the important business before them was treated. If the same methods are continued they must result in great good to the mining industry and the Province. I have reason to think that the bad feeling here respecting our Province is changing—though financial conditions in London are not such as to promise the investment of much capital in British Columbia or for that matter in any other mining country at present."

We observe that the Federal Government has—according to a press despatch—decided to disregard the petition of the silver-lead miners of British Columbia, and no adjustment of tariff in respect to lead and its manufactures is to be made this session. The Liberal Government has at present a satisfactory majority in the House and consequently any requirements of a province that is only entitled to a representation of six may, with safety, be ignored.

THE HISTORY AND PROGRESS OF MINING IN THE BOUNDARY DISTRICT.

By E. JACOBS.

(Concluded from Last Month.)

WHILST the prevailing opinion that the Boundary is a low-grade mining district is, under existing conditions, true in the main, it is not improbable that two or three years hence this view will have to be much modified. Leaving out of present account the Cariboo-McKinney and other gold mines, situate in the extreme western part of Kettle River Mining Division, as not usually regarded as Boundary District mines, there are other gold, or gold and silver properties, that give promise of eventually adding considerably to the total value of the mineral production of the district.

BOUNDARY GOLD AND SILVER PROPERTIES.

Among the properties the ores of which are mineralized chiefly with gold, or gold and silver, as their valuable contents, are several that have demonstrated by their output of ore that they can be made to yield a fair return of profit above working costs. Particularly has this been shown in connection with individual mines in four or five widely separated parts of the district. For instance, the Humming Bird and the Golden Eagle, in Brown's camp, North Fork of Kettle River, are about half a dozen miles in an air line from the Jewel, in Long Lake camp. Again, the Republic group—Last Chance, Republic and Non Such—in Smith's camp, near Boundary Falls, and the No. 7 and City of Paris group, in Central camp, are six to ten miles south of Long Lake and Brown's camps. Between Long Lake and Smith's camps, in Providence and Skylark camps, which latter are adjacent to Greenwood, there are half a dozen high-grade claims now under development, with encouraging results. To the westward, up the West Fork of Kettle River, are the Carmi, Rambler and others, situate 30 to 40 miles west of the Boundary Creek properties just mentioned. These West Fork claims, again, are half a dozen or may be ten miles northeast of Camp McKinney, so that with gold and silver-bearing ores occurring in so many widely separated parts, there appears to be good reason for expecting

that later, as above suggested, opinions relative to the general grade of the ores of the district will be modified. Meanwhile the great bulk of the tonnage of the low-grade copper mines necessarily overshadows the comparatively infinitesimal production of gold and silver ores. Before noting in brief detail some of the higher grade claims it may be of interest to have mentioned here that Mr. W. A. Carlyle (now manager of the big Rio Tinto mines in Spain), who in 1897, in his then capacity of Provincial Mineralogist, paid the Boundary an official visit and spent a week or two examining its mining properties, at that time much less developed, expressed a favourable opinion of the possibilities of the narrower quartz veins he saw, whilst Mr. R. W. Brock, geologist in charge of the Dominion Geological Survey party that spent last season in the district, also considers these worthy of the attention of mining men prepared to develop them.

JEWEL.—It may be that the ores of some of the properties now to be noticed are not quartz ores, but most of them are. Taking first those that have each shipped more than 1,000 tons of ore, the Jewel, City of Paris, Athelstan and No. 7 must have mention. The Jewel is situate in Long Lake camp, about eight miles by wagon road from Greenwood and half that distance from Eholt. It was acquired, with other interests, from local prospectors late in 1896 by the Prospecting Syndicate of British Columbia, Ltd., of Vancouver, B.C., then represented in the Boundary by Mr. Leslie Hill, C.E. In January of 1897 a small steam plant, consisting of a vertical boiler and a hoist—the pioneer power plant to be used in mining in the district—was brought in to Greenwood and hauled thence over a snow road to the Jewel; quite an undertaking in those comparatively early days. A year's work having shown the Jewel to give promise of proving a mine, the Jewel Development Syndicate was organized to acquire and operate the Long Lake properties of the Prospecting Syndicate. After the Jewel Syndicate had spent about \$20,000 in further development, the Jewel Gold Mines, Ltd., was organized in England, and this company acquired the following mineral claims: Jewel, Denoro Grande (part interest), Gold Drop and Massachusetts, and the Imperial and Exposition fractions. To date 992 lineal feet of work have been done in sinking and raising and about 2,701 feet in cross-cutting and drifting, chiefly on the Jewel. The ore is described by one mining engineer as "quartz, carrying considerable quantities of galena, zinc blende, iron pyrites and, occasionally and in smaller quantities, ruby silver, tellurium and tellurides of gold and silver, while free gold is of exceedingly rare occurrence." Bulk tests of 160 tons of ore shipped in 1900 to the Silica Works, Rossland, B.C., showed the ore to contain an average recoverable value of rather less than \$12 per ton. The ore occurs in a fissure vein running approximately north and south and varying from two feet to eight feet in width, averaging about three feet six inches. An incline shaft has been sunk 348 feet, following the vein on its easterly dip of about 45 degrees. Levels have been run, each north and south, at 50, 120, 230 and 330 feet depth, respectively. These have opened up a shoot of ore about 250 feet in length and have made available, according to one engineer's estimate, fully 20,000 tons of ore above the 330-foot level. Underfoot in the lowest level the vein is strong and has every appearance of continuing down to a much greater depth. A second shaft, 160 feet in depth, has levels run at 100 and 150 feet depth. The company has its own sawmill, also an excellent stamp mill site situate close to and above Long Lake and distant about 2,000 feet from the Jewel main shaft. The grading for a mule tramway to this site, on a 6 per cent. grade, has already been done. The mining equipment, including one 50 and one 25-h.p. boiler, a 4-drill Rand straight line air compressor, air receiver, machine drills, two 5x5 Bacon hoists, station and sinking pumps, etc., is small, but is equal to present requirements. The putting in of a stamp mill and cyanide plant have been under consideration, and should these be installed it will be practicable to obtain power from the Cascade Water Power &

Light Co., which is supplying power to other companies operating in the district. In 1901 319 tons of ore were shipped, and in 1902 the output was 2,080 tons, making the aggregate output 2,559 tons. Most of this ore was sent to the Granby Company's smelter. Mr. Wm. Rowe, who is still in charge of the mine, has supervised its development during the last four or five years, but work has been intermittent and at present the mine is inoperative.

CITY OF PARIS.—The City of Paris mine has been idle since early in 1901. Prior to that about 2,000 tons of ore were hauled in horse waggons to the Granby Company's smelter, at Grand Forks, distant eight or nine miles from the mine. The City of Paris group, consisting of the City of Paris, Lincoln and No. 4, all adjoining claims, is owned by the City of Paris Mining Co., Ltd., of Spokane, Washington. More than 6,000 lineal feet of work have been done in development of these claims, of which tunnels, drifts and cross-cuts represent 5,184 feet, and the remainder is sinking and raising. The property was worked in 1900-1 in connection with the neighbouring group, owned by the Majestic Gold Mining Co., Ltd., comprising the Lexington, City of Denver, City of Montreal, and Oregon fraction claims. The work done on the Majestic Company's group totals 1,178 lineal feet. The power plant jointly used by the two companies included two 80-h.p. boilers, a 10-drill Rand duplex air compressor, air receiver, machine drills, 6x8 hoisting engine, steam pumps, etc. The ore on the City of Paris and Lincoln claims is quartz mineralized with grey copper and gold in one vein, whilst another carries galena. The former vein is unusually large in places for quartz in this district, varying up to 16 feet in width, with about half the ore of a profitable grade. The formation on the Lexington is described as similar to that occurring on the City of Paris. The lack of railway transportation facilities is the chief obstacle to the continuous operation and consequent productiveness of these mines.

ATHELSTAN.—The Athelstan, owned by the Athelstan Gold Mining Co., is in Wellington camp, about ten miles south-east of Greenwood. It has been idle for nearly two years, but in 1900 shipped about 1,200 tons of ore, chiefly to the Granby smelter, and in the early part of 1901 sent 550 tons out, much of this going to Boundary Falls to what was then intended to be a pyritic smelter, but which was never operated as such. The total development work done on this property is only about 445 lineal feet, this including two shafts, respectively 60 and 70 feet in depth. The ore is described as arsenopyrite, an iron ore having here its chief value in gold with a little silver. The vein is stated to be up to 14 feet in width. The mine is alongside the Greenwood-Grand Forks waggon road, about a mile beyond the Winnipeg, with an up-grade haul to the railway at that mine, whence its ore was shipped to the smelters. When work was in progress a 35-h.p. vertical boiler, a 5x5 Bacon hoist, and a Cameron sinking pump, were in use at the mine.

No. 7 MINE.—The No. 7 mine, in Central camp, about eight miles from Greenwood, is the property of the No. 7 Mining Co., Ltd., of New York. It was bonded in 1896 by Col. John Weir for himself and associates, about the same time as he took hold of the Mother Lode. During 1896-7 it was opened down to 130 feet depth, with drifts at 60 feet and 110 feet. Not much work was done during the two following years, but in 1900 the No. 7 Company having meanwhile been organized, operations were resumed. The shaft was enlarged to a two-compartment working shaft and deepened to about 320 feet. The drifts at the 60 and 120-foot levels were considerably extended and cross-cuts from the shaft cut the ledge at 200 and 300 feet. A drift on the vein at the last mentioned level showed it to maintain its average width of about 30 inches of quartz ore, which is mineralized with gold, silver, lead and zinc, and which in places ranges up to seven feet in width. Several stropes are opened and from these ore, together with that taken out in development work, was sent to the smelter at Greenwood, distant six or seven miles. In 1901 665 tons were hauled to a railway

siding a couple of miles down Boundary Creek from the smelter, where it was loaded on railway cars, and in 1902 532 tons were shipped, the total tonnage being 1,197 tons. It is not practicable to haul heavy loads over the mountain road from the No. 7 to the railway during more than half the year, rain and melting snow making the ground too soft for hauling. The mine has a power plant consisting of a Class A Ingersoll-Sergeant straight line air compressor rated at five drills, six one-man machine drills, air receiver, 100-h.p. boiler, 25-h.p. hoisting engine, Cameron sinking pump, etc. The No. 7 group consists of the No. 7, Helen, McGregor, Glasgow, Lady of the Lake, Rob Roy and other mineral claims, but the development work, totalling about 2,000 lineal feet, has nearly all been done on the No. 7. It is probable a concentrator will be placed in the neighbourhood of the mine, so as to reduce the bulk of ore to be hauled until such time as the camp shall be afforded railway transportation facilities. Mr. Frederic Keffer, M.E., has been in charge of this property since 1896.

AN EXPERIMENTAL PLANT.—In the vicinity of Boundary Falls are half a dozen or more gold-quartz claims having ore veins of a promising nature. Six or seven years ago a two-stamp mill was put in at the Falls, and a small steam engine to operate it, with the object of extracting gold, which seemed to be free near the surface in some of the veins. This experimental plant did not prove a success though. On one claim in particular, now owned by the Boundary Falls Mining Co., Ltd., of Vancouver, B.C., quartz showing gold was obtained. Later, in 1897 the company put down a shaft to a depth of 100 feet and met with ore up to eight feet in width, but the claim was afterwards Crown-granted and no work has since been done on it. The Republic Gold Mining Co., Ltd., of Spokane, Wash., owns four claims in this neighbourhood, viz., the Republic, Last Chance, Non Such and Hidden Treasure. On each of the first named two a shaft has been sunk in ore 100 feet. This ore is quartz with galena and iron pyrites values being in gold and silver. The Non Such ore is also quartz with gold but containing less silver.

NON SUCH.—The Non Such was located in 1886, and it is the oldest claim on continuous record in the Boundary Creek section of the district. Two tunnels have been driven on this claim, each about 350 feet. Altogether more than 1,000 lineal feet of work have been done in development of the Republic Company's claims. If capital were available for extensive development it is probable this would prove a profitable property.

Ten years ago high-grade ore was taken out from several Boundary Creek claims and packed on mules and horses over Boundary Mountain to Grand Prairie (now Grand Forks) whence it was hauled in waggons to Marcus for shipment to a smelter at Tacoma, Puget Sound. It cost \$30 a ton to get it to the railway, yet it returned a good profit to those who were enterprising enough to send it out. The American Boy, near Boundary Falls, and the Skylark, Elkhorn, Providence and Defiance, all near what is now Greenwood, together contributed this ore. The D. A., owned by D. A. Holbrook, a little later sent out five tons of ore worth about \$150 per ton. Soon afterwards the big bodies of copper ore attracted attention and the narrow veins of high-grade ore were almost entirely neglected for years. In 1898 the Gold Bug, situate within half a mile of Greenwood, sent a couple of cars of rich ore to Trail, realizing nearly \$4,000 above freight and treatment charges.

PROVIDENCE.—Last year Mr. Wm. Fowler, who had worked on the Providence in the early nineties, secured this property under lease and bond and after two or three months' work was on a vein from which nearly 200 tons of ore returning from \$80 to \$150 per ton have now been shipped, and which has since been sunk on to a depth of 100 feet, and bids fair to prove a permanent vein workable at a considerable profit. The paystreak varies in width up to about 20 inches, and the outlook, both as regards size of ore shoot and value of ore, is considered most encouraging by the management of the

Providence Mining Company, which was organized last year to acquire from Mr. Fowler this promising property. Since then other claims have been given attention with the result that the Elkhorn, Strathmore and Gold Bug, all near the Providence, the Goldfinch, Lancashire fraction and Abercraig, east of Greenwood, and the Helen, half a mile south of the town, are all at work, each in the hands of different men. From the Goldfinch and Lancashire fraction most encouraging returns have been received, whilst both Helen and Elknorn will shortly ship some fine-looking ore, and the Gold Bug vein is also opening up well. The Skylark and several others should also have notice, but attention must now be directed to outlying camps.

BRITISH COLUMBIA IN LONDON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BUSINESS in the market for British Columbia mining shares was not particularly active during February and as a matter of fact the movements are mostly adverse on balance, Le Roi having been particularly weak, owing to the discouraging character of recent advices from Rossland, including the reported coal strike. They closed at the end of February at 27s. 6d. or about 6s. down on balance. Le Roi No. 2, after having been up to 20s. reacted to 17s. 6d., whilst Velvets were also conspicuously weak, having fallen back to 10s. on the withdrawal of support. The Le Roi No. 2 meeting was one of the features, as was also the statutory gathering of the reconstructed Ymir Company. Owing to the better news from the property and the hopeful statements made by the Chairman the price has remained steady, but I need hardly point out that this company does not now attract so much attention as it did in the days when the price was well over £2. Whether the quotation will ever return to that figure is, to say the least, exceedingly doubtful. London and British Columbia Goldfields (which was the parent of this concern and the Whitewater) after improving to 7s. 6d. reacted to 6s. 3d., and Whitewaters themselves are quoted at the purely nominal figure of about 2s. 6d. or something like 87 1/2 per cent. discount. New Goldfields have been dull, but Snowshoes, which are now fully paid, have remained steady, and Rossland-Kootenay were also the turn better. Business, however, throughout the month was exceedingly limited and there were few movements of importance outside the fluctuations in the Le Roi issues. Hall Mining & Smelting, which you will remember, were last year as high as 9s., are now back to the exceedingly low level of 1s. 6d. Those who have been following Whittaker-Wright finance and its developments will have been interested in the parliamentary debate on the question of the prosecution of the London & Globe Finance Corporation director. The Government had to face one of the worst quarters of an hour they have experienced since they were returned to office, and it is no secret that at one time during the debate it was feared by the whips that the voting would be adverse to the ministry, so strong was public feeling upon the whole matter. The statement of the Attorney-General did not allay this hostility, and had it not been for Mr. Balfour, who came to the rescue of his legal confederates, it is more than possible that the Government would have been in the minority. As it was, they managed to survive only on the distinct promise that steps should be immediately taken to rectify the law dealing with joint stock companies and their directors. It is understood that although the Government refused, even at the peril of being defeated, to undertake the prosecution of the directors of the London & Globe Finance Corporation, that Mr. John Flower and his friends, who are now engaged in raising a fund sufficiently large to effectively undertake proceedings, will attempt on their own behalf what the Government has abstained from doing. I need hardly point out that the attitude of the Government has been severely criticized in city circles and that public opinion has been outraged by the attitude

of the law officers. It will lend emphasis to this remark if I state that one of the most pronounced critics of the Government policy was the *Times* newspaper, an organ which, as your readers will be aware, may be regarded as semi-official. As a matter of fact, the press of the country has been unanimous in its caustic comments on the attitude of the Government.

TROUT LAKE MINING DIVISION.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A MOST serious accident occurred at the Nettie L. mine last month, resulting in the death of four men and of injury to several more from the gas evolved by blasting. It seems certain that the first man to go on shift on the evening of the accident thought there had been time enough for the bad air to get out, and so descended the winze without turning on the compressed air provided for that purpose and for the machine drills. Finding, however, that he was being overcome with the gas, he called for help, but was unconscious before that help could be rendered, and the same fate befell the three others who went down in turn to attempt a rescue. These four were past all human aid when at last air was turned on, but many more were overcome by the fumes, although all except one man are doing well now. At the inquest, after a most careful enquiry, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, no blame being attached to any one, but the greatest praise due to those who sacrificed their own lives in attempting to rescue a comrade. Such heroism is not rare in mining camps, but this was the first serious accident here and it has naturally cast a gloom over the town.

THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA.

THE Section of Mines of the Geological Survey of Canada have issued the following preliminary statistical statement of the mineral production of Canada for 1902:

PRODUCT.	Quantity. (a)	Value. (a)
<i>Metallic.</i>		
Copper (b)	Lbs. 39,168,202	\$ 4,553,695
Gold, Yukon	\$14,500,000	
Gold, all other	6,241,245	
		20,741,245
Iron ore (exports)	Tons 428,901	1,065,019
*Pig iron from Canadian ore.	" 71,665	1,043,001
Lead (c)	Lbs. 23,000,000	935,870
Nickel (d)	" 10,693,410	5,025,903
Silver	Oz. 4,373,000	2,280,957
Zinc	Lbs. 166,700	8,668
Total metallic		35,653,768
<i>Non-Metallic.</i>		
Actinolite	Tons 550	4,400
Arsenic	" 800	48,000
Asbestos	" 31,779	1,191,338
Asbestic	" 8,662	12,114
Chromite	" 900	12,400
Coal	" 7,639,255	15,538,611
Coke (f)	" 506,466	1,538,930
Corundum	" 768	84,468
Felspar	" 7,576	11,375
Fire clay	" 2,741	4,283
Graphite	" 1,095	28,300
Grindstones	" 6,159	48,400
Gypsum	" 332,045	356,317
Limestone for flux	" 293,168	218,800
Manganese ore	" 84	2,774
Mica	"	400,000

Mineral pigments—			
Baryta	"	1,096	3,957
Ochres	"	4,955	30,495
Mineral water			100,000
Moulding sand	Tons.	13,352	27,051
Natural gas (g)			195,992
Peat	Tons.	475	1,663
Petroleum (h)	Brls.	521,485	934,740
Phosphate	Tons	856	4,953
Pyrites	"	35,616	138,939
Salt	"	63,056	288,581
Talc	"	689	1,804
Tripolite	"	900	15,800
Structural Materials and Clay Products.			
Cement, natural rock	Brls.	124	91,870
Cement, Portland	"	594	1,028,618
Granite			170,000
Pottery			200,000
Sands and gravels (exports)	Tons	159,793	119,120
Sewer pipe			294,465
Slate			19,200
Terra cotta, pressed brick, etc			348,597
Building material including bricks			
nuilding stone, lime, tiles, etc.			5,500.00
Total structural materials and clay products			7,771,870
Total all other non-metallic			21,245,094
Total non-metallic			29,016,964
Total metallic			35,653,768
Estimated value of mineral products not returned			300,000
Total, 1902			\$64,970,732
1901, Total			\$66,712,708
1900			64,505,137
1899			49,584,027
1898			38,697,021
1897			28,661,430
1896			22,584,513
1895			20,648,964
1894			19,931,158
1893			20,035,082
1892			16,628,417
1891			18,976,616
1890			16,763,353
1889			14,013,913
1888			12,518,894
1887			11,321,331
1886			10,221,255

REMARKS.

Notwithstanding the most gratifying increase in the total value of the production of non-metallic minerals, the grand total of the value of the production of all the mineral indus-

*The total production of pig iron in Canada in 1902, from Canadian and foreign ores amounted to 357,903 tons, valued at \$4,243,545, of which it is estimated 71,665 tons, valued at \$1,043,011, should be attributed to Canadian ore and 286,238 tons, valued \$3,200,534, to the ore imported.

(a.) Quantity or value of product marketed. The ton used is that of 2,000 lbs.

(b.) Copper contents of ore, matte, etc., at 11.626 cents per lb.

(c.) Lead contents of ores, etc., at 4.069 cents per lb.

(d.) Nickel contents of ore, matte, etc., at 47 cents per lb.

(e.) Silver contents of ore at 52.16 cents per oz.

(f.) Oven coke, all the production of Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

(g.) Gross return from sale of gas.

(h.) Includes crude oil sold to refiners and oil sold for fuel and other purposes.

tries of Canada, shows a falling off of 2.61 per cent. This is due not merely to the decrease in the Yukon output of gold of \$3,500,000, but also to a considerable falling off in values of all the remaining metallic minerals other than nickel. But for the large growth of the coal and coke industry, helped by increases in many of the other non-metallic products, the decrease in the grand total, on account of the metallic class would have amounted to nearly 10 per cent. The total of the production of the metallic products, shows a falling off of over 15 per cent. as compared with the equivalent figures for 1901, whilst the non-metallic class shows an increase of over 20 per cent. in a similar comparison.

In regard to their relative importance the metallic industries as a group, still occupy the most important place, although not leading to the extent they did in former years. They contributed about 55 per cent. of the whole, the non-metallic following with nearly 33 per cent., and the structural class with nearly 12 per cent. Grouping the metalliferous class with coal and coke, about 81 per cent. of the value is accounted for.

The following table gives the relative contributions to the grand total of the different mineral industries in comparison with 1901.

Product.	1901.	Per cent. of total Production.	Product.	1902.	Per cent. of total Production.
1 Gold	36.17		1 Gold	31.92	
2 Coal and coke	17.99		2 Coal	23.92	
3 Copper	9.14		3 Building material	8.47	
4 Building Material	7.71		4 Nickel	7.74	
5 Nickel	6.89		5 Copper	7.01	
6 Silver	4.89		6 Silver	3.51	
7 Lead	3.37		7 Coke	2.37	
8 Asbestos	1.89		8 Asbestos	1.85	
9 Coke	1.84		9 Cement	1.72	
10 Pig iron (fr. Canadian ore)	1.82		10 Iron ore (exports)	1.64	
11 Petroleum	1.51		11 Pig iron (fr. Canadian ore)	1.61	
12 Iron ore (exprt'd)	1.14		12 Lead	1.44	
13 Cement	0.99		13 Petroleum	1.44	
14 Gypsum	0.51		14 Mica	0.62	
15 Natural gas	0.51		15 Gypsum	0.55	

It will be noted that copper has fallen from third to fifth place; lead from seventh to twelfth. Iron ore exported has advanced two places, but pig iron from Canadian ore is now eleventh in importance, where last year it ranked tenth. Silver maintains its position, whilst nickel advanced to fourth.

PRODUCT.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Inc. p.c.	Dec. p.c.	Inc. p.c.	Dec. p.c.
<i>Metallic.</i>				
Copper	3.54		21.99	
Gold			14.04	
Pig iron (from Canadian ore only)		13.76		13.95
Pig iron (from both home and imported ores)	30.44		20.80	
Lead		55.68		58.39
Nickel	16.37		9.39	
Silver		21.05		30.15
<i>Non-Metallic.</i>				
Arsenic	15.27		15.17	
Asbestos and asbestic	0.55		3.67	
Coal	22.67		29.43	
Coke	38.56		25.30	
Corundum	82.88		59.03	
Cement	59.64		69.76	
Gypsum	13.02		4.75	
Petroleum		16.21		7.29
Salt	6.10		10.01	

In studying the above table, it will be noted that the showing made by the metallic class as a whole is in great contrast with that exhibited by the non-metallic class. In the former

case, although copper, pig iron as a whole and nickel were turned out in larger quantities than last year the beneficial results were modified or even reversed by the lower values obtained. In all the other metallics, the heavy falling off in production is markedly aggravated by the fall in values in these instances also.

In the non-metallic class, there is fortunately a more hopeful record. Only in the cases of asbestos, etc., and petroleum do the values snow decrease, whilst for all the other items the proportional growth is very marked. Although in several of the industries there has been a falling off in values, in others on the contrary, the increase has been very marked.

It will be noticed that although the output of pig iron from Canadian ore has fallen off the whole iron smelting industry shows notwithstanding marked growth. Taking the values of the coal and coke produced during 1902, together with those in the allied iron smelting industry, an increase of nearly \$4,500,000 is exhibited, showing a growth in these, the most commercially important industries of the country, more than offsetting the falling off of the \$3,500,000 in the necessarily fluctuating product of the placer gold washings of the Yukon Territory.

The per capita value of the total mineral products for 1902 was \$11.87 as compared with \$2.23 in 1886, the first year for which figures are available.

THE COAL CREEK RIOT.

AT the last regular meeting of Gladstone Union, No. 76, W. F. M., held at Fernie, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, certain deeds of violence were perpetrated at Coal Creek mines on 19th of March last; and

Whereas, an effort has been made to fasten the responsibility for the said offences on Gladstone Miners' Union, No. 76, and district union No. 7, of the W. F. M. by the arrests and prosecution of the officers and members of the said unions; and

Whereas, a number of men who were charged with the offences in question were negligently allowed to depart from Fernie without trial; therefore be it

Resolved, that this union hereby declare itself to be not in sympathy with the said deeds of violence and strongly disapproves of the same and having endeavoured to assist the authorities in suppressing the same, will continue to do so; and, be it further

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Attorney-General at Victoria, and to the various newspapers.

THE CROW'S NEST COAL COMPANY

THE sixth annual report of this company, recently issued, shows a net profit for the year ending December 31, 1902, of \$171,285.80. It is pointed out, however, that the year was not in any sense a fair test of the company's earning capacity, as the chief mines of the company were closed from May 22 to the end of the year, as a result of the accident which occurred in May. The balance at the credit of profit and loss account brought forward from 1901 amounted to \$517,017.41. To this was added the sum of \$171,285.80, the year's net profits, and \$512,208.75, representing the premium recovered on calls paid on new stock, the whole making an aggregate to the credit of the profit and loss account of \$1,200,511.96. From this amount the directors have paid four dividends of 2½ per cent. each, making 10 per cent. for the year, and amounting to \$250,000. This amount deducted from the balance at the credit of profit and loss leaves to be carried forward to 1903 the sum of \$950,511.96. The output for the year was 442,040 tons, as compared with 425,257 tons in 1901, showing a slight increase, notwithstanding the fact that the company's chief mines were closed down from the 22nd of May to the end of the year.

The large amount of money required for the development of the company's property necessitated a further issue of capital stock during the year, and it was decided to issue the balance of the company's authorized capital stock, viz., \$1,000,000, at a premium of 150 per cent. This stock was offered in the usual way to shareholders *pro rata*, and was all taken. Between the date of the issue of the stock and the closing of the books on the 31st of December, 1902, the sum of \$853,681.25 was paid in by the shareholders, being \$341,472.50 par value of the stock, and \$512,208.75 for premium on same. The balance to be paid in this year amounts to \$1,646,308.75, and will be received by the company during each of the months from January to October, inclusive. The receipt of this money will place the company in a strong financial position, the amount to be paid by the shareholders being sufficient to wipe out all the company's indebtedness, and give it a large amount of money for additional capital expenditure.

The company's capital of \$3,500,000 is now all issued, and it has been paid up to the extent of \$2,841,472.50.

COMPANY NOTES AND CABLES.

Ymir.—Cablegram to London from the company's representative at Ymir: "Level No. 5 west has been extended 25 feet. The ore in the drift has improved. Assays now average \$10 (£2 1s. 4d) per ton of 2,000 lbs.; width, 8 feet."

Le Roi.—Shipped from mine during month 15,820 tons of ore, containing 4,900 oz. of gold, 12,314 oz. of silver, 526,000 lbs. copper. Impossible to estimate profit, ore to be smelted yet.

Velvet Rossland.—March 2: Total net returns from smelters for January: 270 tons first class ore \$4,750, equals £3 10s. 4d. per ton; 360 tons fines \$2,750, equals £1 11s. 6d. per ton. Have shipped during February 660 tons second class ore, 295 tons fines, returns of which are not yet to hand.

Tvee Copper.—March 4: Ore smelted February, 3970 tons; January matte smelted, 225 tons; produced 457 tons matte, containing 415,605 lbs. of copper, 14,758 oz. silver, 710 oz. of gold. Value, after making deduction for refining charges, \$62,500. Estimated profit for month, less January matte and mining developments and smelting charges \$25,134 (£5,182). Office note.—It is necessary to explain that since the smelter was started on December 16, the operations in connection therewith have been largely of an experimental character. The January matte referred to was found to be under the usual commercial grade, owing to the presence of zinc, and has consequently been re-smelted in conjunction with February's ordinary working. Under our smelter manager's able handling the metallurgical difficulty has been entirely overcome, and February is the first month, therefore, during which there has been a clear month's work. In regard to the operations at the mine, developments are proceeding most satisfactorily, and at present the reserve of ore has not been touched, all the ore smelted coming from new developments.

These mines were introduced to and taken up by the London market in 1900, having been previously examined and reported on by Mr. Pellew Harvey, F.C.S., M.I.M.M., now of the firm of Pellew, Harvey & Fell, 31 Wallbrook, E.C. The above results are a most satisfactory confirmation of the opinions then expressed and figures submitted by the engineer referred to.

Canadian Smelting Works.—The ore tonnage for 1902 at the Trail Smelting Plant was as follows:

45,000 tons in the copper furnaces.
30,000 tons in the lead furnaces.
75,000 tons ore smelted.

There was produced from the above 1,050 tons of copper matte containing gold, 18,210 oz.; silver, 94,300 oz.; copper, 1,101,837 lbs. The lead bullion produced was about 4,200 tons containing: Gold, 12,431 ozs.; silver, 1,123,770 ozs.; lead, 8,314,313 lbs. There were 876 tons of refined lead produced

at the Trail refinery, all of which were sold on the Canadian market.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COPPER CO., LTD.—The Directors' report for 1903 states: "In transmitting to you the report of the auditor showing the financial condition of this company at the close of business in November 30th last, the Directors have to advise that you have a mine developed by over a mile of workings and to a depth of only about 500 feet, which, in the opinion of the company's engineer, discloses over 3,000,000 tons of ore. This ore carries copper, gold and silver, the two latter being in nearly sufficient values to pay the cost of smelting. It can be cheaply mined and delivered to the company's smelting plant and can there be made into a copper matte as cheap or cheaper than at any other reduction works in the country.

The company's smelting plant consists of two blast furnaces 42x150 with adequate power and equipment, with a daily capacity of about 800 tons. At the mine there are the necessary hoisting machinery, air compressors and ore crushers.

We need immediately a converter plant, in order that our shipments shall be a 98 per cent. blister copper instead of a 45 per cent matte. The saving to be effected by the installation of this plant will alone make a good dividend on the company's capital.

In the judgment of the Board, the blast furnace capacity should be increased as soon as possible to 2,000 tons per day.

We have reason to suppose that we shall have additional railway facilities during the coming summer by the completion of the Great Northern Railway into our property.

The Board has deemed it wise in the present condition of the company's affairs to charge off as against mining property, mine and smelter buildings, etc., all the profits of the company.

◆
COAL EXPORTATIONS AND TRADE.

PREPARATIONS have been begun for the gradual opening out of that vast field of coal under Newcastle Island, which it was announced some months ago the Western Fuel Company had determined to work. The first announcement was made that a shaft would be sunk on Newcastle Island and wharves built along the inside channel so that ships could be loaded direct from the mouth of the pit.

This plan is not entirely discarded, but it has been thought advisable to reach the coal from the mainland of Vancouver Island by a slope that will go under the channel and reach the coal on Newcastle Island.

This work has been commenced, the slope starting about 80 or 90 yards back from the water's edge at Pimbury's Point so as to be well underneath the water by the time the channel is reached.

The Western Fuel Company shipped in March 17,372 tons of coal.

The situation at the Extension mines remains unchanged, while the miners at Cumberland have decided to join the Western Federation, with the consequence that probably these mines will be closed also by the company.

At Fernie development operations are being rapidly prosecuted, contracts having already been let for 250 new coke ovens.

◆
MINING RETURNS AND STATISTICS

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

OUR correspondents at Crofton writes: Shipments to Crofton smelter during the month of March were, in round numbers, as follows:—

	TONS.
Lenora (Mt. Sicker) 2nd grade	2,500
Comstock (Yreka, Quatsino) 2nd grade	1,550
Trade Dollar (Republic, Wash.)	180
Lone Pine (Republic, Wash.)	420
Zillah M. (Republic, Wash.)	16
Valerie (Wigan, White Horse)	1

There is now on the roast heaps over 20,000 tons of ore ready for treatment. The smelter will blow in in a few days now, and both furnaces are being prepared.

BOUNDARY DISTRICT.

Shipments for the three months ending March 31st are divided as follows:

	Tons.
Granby	88,814
Mother Lode	16,698
Snowshoe	10,320
B. C.	6,810
Emma	6,756
Sunset	2,733
Providence	364
Totals	132,495

ROSSLAND.

Production to the end of March is as follows:

	Tons.
Le Roi	52,747
Centre Star	20,152
War Eagle	14,889
Giant	300
Velvet	2,311
Kootenay	170
Le Roi No. 2	6,458
Homestake	80
Total	105,597

SLOCAN.

The New Denver Ledger publishes the following table of shipments from the Slocan and Slocan City Mining Divisions from January 1st to March 28th:

	Tons
American Boy	371
Antoine	16
Arlington	40
Black Prince	16
Bondholder	1
Bosun	340
Blue Bird	20
Enterprise	165
Davton	4
Fisher Maiden	280
Idaho	21
Ivanhoe	282
Monitor (Jan.)	380
Ottawa	100
Payne	715
Queen Boss	124
Rambler	260
Reco	153
Republic	20
Ruth	84
Slocan Star	587
	4,197

◆
THE ASSESSMENT OF MINING PROPERTY.

TO THE EDITOR—Sir: There have been many criticisms of the two per cent. tax on the gross product of our mines, but comparatively few suggestions of improved methods. May I submit a possible alternative plan for which I claim very substantial advantages?

My plan is that the mine owners assess their property themselves, fixing a sum on which they are either prepared to pay taxes or sell their mines. Should another person or company offer to pay more taxes upon their depositing a sum of money with the Government to insure their acting in good faith, the present owners have either to pay taxes on the increased value offered or sell the property to the party offering to pay the increased rate of taxation. Thus: If A. owns a mine which he values at \$100,000 and supposing the tax was fixed at 1 per cent., he would pay \$100 per annum.

Should B. think the property worth \$150,000 he might place a deposit with the Government of five or ten per cent. and A. would have to pay an additional tax of \$500 or sell to B. at \$150,000. At the end of the year the then owner would have to re-assess his property, which might have either risen in value or fallen in the varying fortunes of mining. Among the advantages that I claim for this method of taxation are:

1. The assessment and collection of the tax would involve the least possible expense.
2. There could be no evasion of the tax and no arrears of taxation.
3. The tax would fall equally on all mining properties.
4. It would constitute the Government as the cheapest and best mining broker in the country.
5. It would cause every owner of mining property to look the facts squarely in the face once a year and destroy a vast amount of fictitious values which are a curse to the industry.
6. It would be a check to over-capitalization.
7. It would assist in the elimination of the unfit among the mine owners and would tend to get our mines into the management of those who could make the best use of them.

We have seen in every camp valuable properties tied up by the quarrels of their owners. This plan of taxation would tend to make such quarrels expensive. We have seen small fractions held at impossible prices in various groups, not that the owners want to work them (they are content with swearing in doubtful assessments) but because the owners hope that the big company will actually buy them out. We want to make this sort of thing expensive.

Everywhere is property tied up, held at absurd prices by incompetent persons, and our methods of taxation have made it easy and cheap to do this. We have taxed the worker and made it easy for the idler.

Yours very truly,

J. C. HARRIS.

New Denver, B.C.

CATALOGUES, CIRCULARS AND TRADE NOTICES.

THE Allis-Chalmers Co. inform us that they have acquired the sole right of manufacture and sale of the Overstrom Concentrating Table, and can promise prompt delivery on orders.

The A. Leschen & Sons Rope Company, of St. Louis, recently opened an office and warehouse at 1717-1725 Arapahoe Street, Denver, Colorado. The firm has consequently now four branches, at respectively New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Denver.

The A. Leschen & Sons Rope Company not only manufacture all of the ordinary grades of wire rope, such as are made by other manufacturers, but they are also the sole manufacturers of the Celebrated Hercules Colored Strand Wire Rope, and of Patent Flattened Strand Wire Rope. They also manufacture automatic tramways which load and unload automatically, likewise several types of friction grip tramways, and also single line and two-bucket tramways.

We have received from the Hendrie & Bolthoff Mfg. & Supply Co. a little booklet descriptive of the Eclipse Drill Sharpener. This machine is specially designed for the manufacture of drill bits for all power, mining and quarry machine drills; and not only for producing the new bit from the grooved steel, but as well for re-sharpening the bits as they are returned to the blacksmith shop. In fact the Eclipse makes a drill bit complete, doing away with all heavy hand sledging, and when this bit is finished it is far superior to the hand made article. It is uniform in appearance and the full substance of the steel is in the cutting portion. The cutting edges are of equal thickness and are always at right angles with the shank.

THE METAL MARKET.

THE *Engineering and Mining Journal* summing up conditions at the end of March, states that the market continues strong, and demand active. Consumption in all quarters continues very large and there is apparently no present tendency to a decrease. The copper market continues strong, but with no further advance in prices. Spot metal remains scarce and producers' supplies are very well taken up for some time to come. Consumers are calling urgently for deliveries, which, in a number of cases, they will not be able to secure. Consumption undoubtedly continues on a very large scale. In the London market there have been some sharp fluctuations, chiefly speculative, the meaning of which is not altogether clear. It is quite possible that this movement is intended for the purpose of forcing down prices on this side, but conditions here are such that a result is hardly practicable. Lead is also showing more strength. While there has been no change in prices, the demand for metal is unusually large, and consumers find difficulty in getting their supplies in time. Spelter is also strong, both galvanizers and brass makers continuing free buyers; while the supply of spot is small, some concessions are made on futures. Silver has lost nothing but remains about the same. Buying for India is reported a little better.

The latest quotations are as follows: Silver 49 to 49½; copper: Lake, 14½ to 15½, electrolytic, 14¾ to 14½, cathodes 14½ to 14%, casting copper 14½ to 14%; lead, 4.52½ to 4.57½ St. Louis; 4.60 to 4.65, New York; £12 10s. to £12 12s. 6d., London. Spelter, 5.50 to 5.55, New York.

DIVIDEND PAYING MINES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE following list has been compiled by Mr. E. M. Sandilands, of Sandon:

Mines and District.	Capital.	Total Pd.
Antoine, Slocan	N. C.	\$ 10,000
Bosun, Slocan	\$ 250,000	12,000
Cariboo, Camp McKinney	800,000	275,000
Centre Star, Rossland	3,500,000	210,000
Fern, Nelson	200,000	15,000
Goodenough, Slocan	800,000	13,188
Hall Mines, Nelson	1,250,000	160,000
Idaho Mines, Slocan	500,000	400,000
Jackson Mines, Slocan	N. C.	20,000
Le Roi, Rossland	5,000,000	1,305,000
Last Chance, Slocan	100,000	213,109
Monitor, Slocan	275,000	27,500
Noble Five, Slocan	12,000	50,000
North Star, East Kootenay	1,500,000	373,000
Payne, Slocan	3,000,000	1,420,000
Poorman, Nelson	250,000	25,000
Queen Bess, Slocan	600,000	25,000
Rambler Cariboo, Slocan	1,250,000	220,000
Reco, Slocan	1,000,000	287,500
Ruth, Slocan	600,000	125,000
Slocan Star, Slocan	500,000	525,000
Surprise, Slocan	N. C.	20,000
Sunset, Slocan	N. C.	55,000
War Eagle, Rossland	1,750,000	545,250
Washington, Slocan	1,000,000	38,000
Whitewater, Slocan	625,000	209,000
St. Eugene, Moyie	3,500,000	210,000
Canadian Gold Fields, Rossland	600,000	36,000
Ymir, Ymir . . . . .	.....	288,000

In addition a number of privately owned mines in the Slocan and elsewhere have paid substantial profits.

THE MINING RECORD.

COMPANY MEETINGS AND REPORTS.

LE ROI.

THE following is the report of the General Manager, Mr. Mackenzie, as presented to the shareholders at the annual meeting recently held in London:—

Middle Vein.—This is the main vein, and upon it is located both the old and the new shafts, the latter being the main working shaft through which all mining operations are carried on, the North and South veins being reached by cross-cuts. The Combination Shaft has reached a depth of 1,284½ feet, and extensive exploration work is being carried on in the 9th, 1,050 and 12th levels. As the work on the latter level has only just begun it is impossible to predict whether or not valuable discoveries of ore will be made at this point. On the 1,050 level, at about 125 feet east from the main shaft, a body of ore of fair shipping grade has been developed, the shoot being 62 feet long, with an average width of 10 feet. Between the 9th and 1,050 levels, west of the main shaft, a body of high-grade ore is being opened up by a winze from the 900. This winze is down 75 feet below the 900, and is in ore the whole distance which will average \$18 per ton. By judicious exploration work above the 7th level, I believe a considerable tonnage of high-grade ore can be developed between, and adjoining, the stopes now being worked. In the haste to attain depth and explore the lower levels much virgin territory has been left between the Tregear shoot on the extreme western limits of the known ore body and the Miller shoot which adjoins the Centre Star mine on the eastern boundary.

South Vein.—This has been developed by cross-cuts at the 5th and 7th levels, and a large tonnage of ore is blocked out that will realize a profit when operating expenses are reduced to \$9 per ton, or the value of copper rises to 15 cents per pound. A raise on this vein from the 7th to the 5th level proves that the ore body is continuous between them, and contains average values of \$8 per ton—proper sorting will bring the shipping grade up to \$10 per ton.

North Vein.—The outcrop of this vein at the western end is very promising, and should be further prospected to determine its value. Although it is small it carries high values in gold and copper. The vein is intersected by cross-cuts on the 4th, 7th and 9th levels, but no exploration work has been done under where the outcrop is most promising.

Ore Reserves.

Mr. R. J. Frecheville, M.E., in his report to the Directors and Shareholders of your company, dated December 4th, 1901, estimated the ore reserves of shipping grade at that time as 483 tons, valued at \$11.75—the basis of values being: Gold at \$20 per ounce, silver 60 cents per ounce, and copper 16 1-2 cents per pound. The present prices of these metals are: Gold \$20 per ounce, silver 53 cents per ounce, and copper 11 1-2 cents per pound, which reduces the value of these reserves to \$10.37 per ton. From the date of Mr. Frecheville's report an additional tonnage, amounting to 93,121, of an average value of \$10.26, has been developed. The extraction during the same period was 129,635 1-2 tons, containing gross values of \$1,517,064.66, equal to \$11.70 per ton. By making due allowance for the fact that the grade of ore extracted was higher than the average of the mine, I estimate the reserves at the close of the fiscal year at 447,358 tons of an average of \$9.96 based on the present values of metals.

Ore Production, Etc.

The ore mined and shipped to Northport during the year amounted to 155,765.407 dry tons, its metal values averaging: Gold .373 ounces, silver .709 ounces and copper 1.526 per cent. per ton. The gross value of this ore was \$1,821,773.05, equal to \$11.695 per ton. The location and area of the ore extracted is shown by heavy black contour lines on the vertical projection of the working which accompanies this report.

The mining operations embrace only a period of 263 days, as during the months of July, August and September prac-

tically no work was carried on owing to the strike existing at your mine and smelter.

There were shipped to the smelters at Trail and Northport, during the year, 14,333.101 dry tons of second-class dump ore, which contained average metal values of: Gold .377 oz., silver .485 oz., and copper .827 per cent. per ton. The gross value amounted to \$147,517.36, equal to 10.29 per ton.

Assuming that the average value of the ore mined during the year was \$11.695 per ton, and deducting the operating expenses for the same period, \$10.652 per ton, a profit of \$1.043 is shown to have been made on the first-class ore, equal to \$162,460.00. The gross value of the second-class dump ore treated during the year was \$10.29 per ton, the total expenses incurred in connection with same was \$5.35 per ton, leaving a profit of \$4.94 per ton, equal to \$70,830.00. The total profits, therefore, amounted to \$233,290.00.

Working Costs.

Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., your auditors, in their report, gave our total operating expenses, which embraced mining, freighting of ore, smelting and realization of matte values, for the year ending June 30th, 1901, as \$10.724 per ton. Apparently, they failed to make any allowance for the regular metal losses in slag, as is shown by the subjoined table, which gives the comparative costs under this head for the years 1901 and 1902:—

	Per Ton. 1901	Per Ton. 1902
Stopping and loading on railroad	\$3.487	\$3.100
Exploration . . . . .	.423	.451
Depreciation:—		
Mine equipment . . . . .	.080	.138
Surface improvements . . . . .	.050	.061
Mine machinery . . . . .	.106	.125
Freight on ore to smelter . . . . .	.510	.400
Smelter expense	4.465	4.205
Depreciation of smelter plant . . . . .	.232	.110
Interest and discount on ore in yards and		
matte in transit . . . . .	.229	.233
Freight on matter to refiners . . . . .	.536	.404
Sacking and crushing matte . . . . .	.044	.043
Eastern representation, assaying, etc. . . . .	.028	.013
Refiners' tolls and deductions . . . . .	.534	.579
Metal losses in smelting . . . . .	. . . . .	.781
	\$10.724	\$10.652

Although nearly \$53,000 of the exploration costs carried forward in Capital Account from the years 1900 and 1901, have been charged to the present year's cost, and an extremely liberal allowance made for the depreciation of the development performed in 1902, the cost of mining and smelting was reduced 74 cents per ton, in spite of the fact that the tonnage mined was nearly one-fourth less than that treated during the previous year. The metal losses in slag, however, which were not taken into consideration in that period, more than offsets this saving.

The working costs of the year do not provide a correct index of what can be done in the future, as I believe that under reasonably favourable conditions the costs can be cut down to \$9 per ton. We have been heavily handicapped by labour troubles, besides high freight rates and fuel costs, which I have every reason to believe will be reduced in the near future.

Review of Mine Expenditure.

During the year the gross expenditures for operating and equipping the mine amounted to \$503,806.93.

The amount expended on Revenue Account segregated as below	\$487,009 77
Stopping ore from mine	\$182,500 60
Loading second-class ore	4,509 17

THE MINING RECORD.

The amount expended on Capital Account segregated as below was.....	106,887 16
Mine machinery and plant	\$ 6,453 74
Surface improvements and bldgs.	0,477 75
Furniture.....	2,205 84
Surveyors' and assayers' instrum'ts ..	949 55
Mine equipment	6,763 93
Exploration and development	84,036 35

The sum charged to "Profit and Loss, distributed as follows was

.....	\$605,131 78
Stopping ore from mine.....	\$482,500 60

Depreciation:—

Exploration and development..	71,998 20
Mine equipment.....	21,558 88
Machinery and plant	19,483 22
Surface improvements and bldgs.	9,590 88

During the year the sum of \$84,036.35 was expended in the development of the mine. The details of the work accomplished, and costs, are as follows:—

Work.	Footage.	Total cost.	Cost per t.
Sinking shaft	167½	\$17,920 59	\$106 99
Station cutting .....	.....	2,396 17	.....
Pocket cutting .....	.....	6,182 93	.....
Winzing.....	75	3,548 79	47 32
Raising.....	591½	18,893 54	31 79
Cross-cutting.....	420	7,947 73	18 92
Driving	1,495	25,343 92	16 95
Diamond drilling	374	1,892 68	.....

Total..... 3,123 ft. \$84,036 35

The accompanying plan shows the above workings wherever possible. They can be distinguished by heavy contour lines.

The Northport Smelting Works.

These works are situated at Northport, Washington, and are owned by your company. They are distant about 17 miles from the Le Roi mine, with which they are connected by the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway, a branch of the Great Northern system. The location is considered to be an excellent one, as the smelter is always assured of an unlimited quantity of lime rock, particularly well suited for fluxing purposes, at a nominal cost; and a constant and adequate supply of water for the general uses of the plant as well as for carrying off the slag. The transportation facilities of Northport are already good, but an additional advantage will be gained during the present year, as the branch line of the Great Northern Railway which is to be connected with the Crow's Nest Pass coal fields will shortly be completed and the smelter enabled to obtain ample supplies of first class coke at a reasonable rate. If good business judgment and economy is exercised, there is no reason why much profit should not accrue to the Company from the treatment of custom ore, as with the many points in our favour we should eventually be in a position to secure much of the ore produced in Washington, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and British Columbia.

The full capacity of the plant provides for the treatment of 1,200 to 1,500 tons of ore daily. It consists of six large water-jacket copper matting furnaces, one of which has but recently been erected, three calcining furnaces, pug mills, briquetting machines, etc. The ore is taken from the roast yards to the bins at the back of the furnaces by means of a small locomotive, and the tracks are loaded at the heaps by a steam shovel. The various mechanical appliances are in first-class condition.

Smelter Expenditure.

The "labour trouble" which has been referred to before in this report, besides retarding the operations of the smelter very materially, did much, both directly and indirectly, to increase the working costs of the year under review.

The total working expense for the year, segregated as follows, amounted to	\$1,194,507 67
Smelting ores.....	\$1,117,068 62
Matte charges	76,899 05

The total expenditure on Capital Account, made up as follows, was	122,281 60
New buildings	\$35,948 74
Bins, trestles, and roast yard..	1,055 65
Water and fire protect'n syst'm ..	14,240 89
Machinery.....	43,786 54
Tramway and equipment	17,722 63
Sewage system, etc.....	4,527 15
Purchase of 95 acres of land ..	5,000 00

General Remarks.

The matte shipped during the year was 6,779.067 tons of a net value of \$2,532,302.67, equal to \$373.55 per ton. The ores smelted amounted to 205,761.078 tons, of which 56,077.695 tons were purchased. No profit accrues to your company as a result of the treatment of the latter, owing to the fact that they were almost invariably bought on a falling market, and usually on a metallic basis of settlement which left a scant margin in favour of the smelter. It is merely necessary to state by way of illustration that your company's contract with the Le Roi No. 2, Limited, and Rossland Great Western Mines, Limited, provides for the purchase of their ores on a basis of 98 per cent. of the copper extraction, while the actual recovery is much less; and virtually immediate payment at market quotations, while your company's settlement with the refiners, fully 100 days later, has usually been on a lower basis of value.

The company's holdings in the name of the Northport Smelting and Refining Company, Limited, besides the smelter and the ground upon which it is situated, comprise a half interest in the Northport water system; 95 acres of land adjoining the Northport townsite, which cost \$5,000; an undivided fourth interest in the platted Northport townsite; a quarry which contains the limestone which is being drawn upon by the smelter; and a group of mining claims, known as the "Le Fleur Comstock," situated near Republic, Ferry County, Washington. These claims were purchased three years ago for \$49,500, but as they are practically undeveloped I can place no value upon them.

Conclusion.

This report would be incomplete unless some reference were made to the financial condition of the company, which has recently been the subject of much comment, and exercised such a powerful influence over the price of its shares. While the Le Roi Mining Company, Limited, commenced the fiscal year of 1902 with an apparent surplus of assets in its favour, and made a profit of \$233,290.00 during the nine months in which its mining operations were conducted, our books show that a deficit in assets existed at the close of the year. This paradoxical state of affairs is attributable to four causes, which are:—

1. Over-estimate of the value of the stock of metals on hand at the smelter on June 30th, 1901.
2. Failure to allow for losses of copper and silver in slag in estimating profits made prior to June 30th, 1901.
3. Fall in the price of metals which has taken place during the year ending June 30th, 1902.
4. Heavy expenditure made on capital account during the year.

As I have already submitted a lengthy report touching the over-estimate of the stock on hand and slag losses (see my letter dated May 6th, 1902, addressed to H. J. Hill, Esq., formerly Chairman of the Board), it is merely necessary to state that our assets sustained a reduction of approximately \$300,000 under these two heads.

The fall in the price of metals has reduced the estimates which have been made concerning our profits very greatly,

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possibly to the extent of \$80,000—the exact figures are impossible to ascertain. To make this statement clear, I should explain that by reason of the fact that the actual market value of our ores cannot be learned until they reach the hands of the refiners in the shape of matte it is impossible to estimate our profits over a given period with any degree of accuracy. For the purpose of the monthly reports which are transmitted to the London office, and for the settlements made between the mine and smelter, the practice has been followed of placing a value on the monthly outputs on the metallic basis prevailing during the month in which the ore is mined. This procedure, apparently the only one which could be pursued under the circumstances, operates satisfactorily when copper and silver prices remain comparatively steady; but when fluctuations, such as have taken place several times during the past year, occur, profits are metamorphosed into actual losses. According to the showing made by our ore books, the profit of \$233,200 previously referred to has been made on the first-class ore mined and the second-class ore treated, basing our estimates in the manner indicated when, as a matter of fact, the matte settlements, made about three months after the receipt of the ore at the smelter, at the market prices then prevailing were approximately \$50,000 less. An additional sum of \$30,000 may be said to have been lost on the sales of "Custom" ores owing to the fall in prices.

The capital expenditures on the company's smelter shows that over \$17,000 have been spent during the year in various ways. The installation of blast furnace No. 6, completion of the calcine furnace, etc., the purchase of the steam shovel, additional boilers and sampling mill machinery are responsible for nearly one half of this sum, while the balance was expended in the purchase and installation of pumps, etc., used in connecting with the water and fire protection system, buildings erected at the time of the strike for the accommodation of the employees, installation of a sewage system,

etc., and in connection with the electrical machinery for the tramway. The money expended at the mine on machinery and plant and surface improvements was comparatively small, amounting to less than \$13,000. Half of the amount was spent in the construction of a flume and in making additional improvements in connection with our water and fire protection system, whilst the remainder of the sum was expended in the erection of or addition to buildings and in the purchase of additional machinery.

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TEMPERATURE 1902.

	Highest Mean.	Lowest Mean.
Victoria	67.6	35.4
London, Eng.	68.1	31.5
Torquay, Eng.	65.5	38.5

RAINFALL 1902.

	Inches.
Victoria	26.45
London, Eng.	20.84
Torquay, Eng.	30.22

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