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**Prospectors Fight New Engineer's Act**

Organization Made Last Week at Toronto to Oppose New Legislation. Several Well-Known Prospectors in Organization

The controversy in regard to the proposed Professional Engineer's Act before the Ontario Legislature still continues. Last week a new phase was given to the opposition by the organization of a Prospectors' Association to oppose the proposed legislation. The organization was made at Toronto and while a number of well known prospectors are concerned it must be admitted that there is no particular representation of the ordinary prospector of this country. What is meant by this is that the prospectors in the Toronto organization referred to are men who are in prospecting in a bigger way than most prospectors are able to attain, and that they have considerable of their time and effort given to promotion work in regard to mining. In the proposed legislation so far as the clauses have been published there does not seem to be anything to interfere with the prospector in his work as a prospector. Of course he can not make a report on a property as a mining engineer, but the average prospector would not ask any such right. Otherwise there does not seem to be any interference with the prospector. It is to be noted that the exact clauses that affect the prospector are not pointed out in these discussions.

It may be set down as a certainty that not only the prospectors, and the mining men, but the Government and the people in general would be against anything that would injure or handicap the prospector. If the prospector is not affected the public, however, would be glad of anything that would protect the public from evils that in

the past have not only injured the public but also the mining industry generally and the prospector as well. It is these evils that have added to the difficulty of the prospector being able to get money for the development of his discoveries. It may be noted that all the good prospectors when they are trying to interest capital in their claims quote mining engineers in support of their own opinions on the properties. The advocates of the new Professional Engineers' Act say it is designed only for the protection of the public so far as it relates to mining. If this is the fact, other interests should not be allowed to upset it. On the other hand if there are clauses in the bill that will injure the prospector these clauses should be pointed out instead of generalities being indulged in. As it is the general public has little real chance to form a correct opinion on the proposed legislation.

The Advance has been of the opinion from the start that the real opposition to the proposed bill is due to objection to any "closed corporation" idea or to any "exclusive union." If this is the fact, then that feature should be emphasized, instead of side issues being raised. Objection to a "closed corporation" for mining engineers should be extended to such "exclusive unions" as the doctors, lawyers, veterinarians, dentists, druggists, teachers, preachers, and a score of other lines. One of the difficulties seems to be that while every man sees the advantage to the public in his own profession or trade or calling being exclusive or guarded, but he does not see it always the same way in regard to other lines. It does seem fair however, that if the "closed corporation" idea is to be used against the Engineers' Act, it should be used openly, though it would look odd for some of those opposing it to bring up this particular argument.

As noted in these columns several times the Advance is strongly opposed to the proposed legislation if it is going to injure the prospector, but first it is surely necessary to show how the prospector is to be harmed. It is easy enough to see how the promoter may be handicapped, but that is something different.

To keep readers posted on the question the following report is given of the meeting last week in Toronto. This particular report goes into more detail than any published by the daily newspapers. That is the reason it is used. It is from The Northern Miner, which is actually opposing the proposed Engineers' Act. Altogether The Northern Miner is more concerned, perhaps, with promotion rather than actual prospecting. The Advance is sure its report will be fair and accurate in this case.

"Prospectors feregathered to the number of about 150 in Toronto on Tuesday, to form an association and to formally protest against the passage of the proposed Engineers' Act. Organization was quickly perfected, the meeting was thrown open to discussion and resolutions were adopted. The meeting was of a single mind, that the proposed legislation was against the interests of prospectors and of the mining industry in general.

"The sections of the Act to which exception was taken were read and explained to the interested gathering. The legal clauses, outlining penalties for infraction, were discussed, together with other aspects of the situation. Speakers included W. Fairburn, Alan Cokeram, T. H. Rae, John E. Hammell, A. K. Roberts, Jack Munroe, S. Sainsbury and John Reid.

"Alan Cokeram explained that the effect of the act, if it were passed, would be to prohibit prospectors from doing any work other than location and staking; it would prevent the issuing of reports by syndicate heads or trustees; it would result in the employment of members of the Professional Engineers' Association only. The organization of an association of prospectors was suggested, the names of officials thereof were mentioned, a

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call was made for financial support, which was quickly forthcoming, and the association was quickly launched with Alan Cokeram as president and W. Cochenor, W. Fairburn, Carl Springer, K. Bidgood and J. H. McLeod on the committee. Carl Springer was appointed secretary-treasurer and T. H. Rae, Royal Bank Bldg., Toronto, will receive subscriptions to defray necessary expenses.

"The speakers to the motion brought out some interesting points. John Hammell, in characteristic vein, stated that the members of the Toronto branch of the C.I.M.M. had voted overwhelmingly against the legislation. A personal canvass of his mining company friends had shown only one company in favour of it. He suggested that mining was doing all right as it was. There was too much legislation of one kind and another now. He remarked that in conversation with Premier Bennett not long ago he had told him mining helped to pull the country out of the hole. As to the engineers as a class the bulk of them were against the proposal; a few expected to be nursed. They should stand on their own feet and get on with the job. Prospectors made jobs for engineers, he pointed out.

A. K. Roberts, well known in legal mining circles, pointed out that there was already an act on the statute books covering the status of mining engineers, passed in 1927. There did not appear to be any real reason for a new act. Some of the clauses in the proposed legislation were explained by the speaker.

"John Reid, well-known engineer, stated that he had been in favour of the act and had published an article in defence of it; since that time clauses had been changed or deleted which put a different complexion on it. He had been under the impression that all private reports should be outside the operation of the act but found that they did come under it. He stated that he did not think the act had been carefully drawn and that it overlooked the fact that the relation of the engineer to mining was very complicated. He suggested that the former act to which Mr. Roberts referred, lacked teeth. He believed that the sponsors of the legislation had not in mind any action contrary to the interests of prospectors it had been largely a measure of self-defence. With the exception of Ontario and Prince Edward Island the other provinces of Canada had legislation of a more potent type and other provinces had suggested that if Ontario engineers were to carry on in their provinces there should be some retroaction in legislation. His conclusion was that while he was in favour of some protective legislation for Ontario, the proposed act, as at present outlined, was not acceptable to him.

The committee which will look after the interests of the prospectors will include Alan Cokeram and John E. Hammell.

The District Children's Aid appreciate very much a cheque received last week from Golden Beaver Lodge A. F. & A. M., for \$100.00 for the carrying on of the work of the C. A. S. Golden Beaver Lodge has been generous in its support of the Children's Aid ever since the work commenced in the district.

**Premier Not Awed by Demands of Reds**

Two from Timmins Among the Delegates to Ottawa from Alleged Unemployed. The "Demands" Not Given Much Attention.

On Thursday last a group of men, supposed to represent the unemployed throughout Canada but in reality only representing groups of aliens, many of whom were formerly members of the communist party but now travelling under other names, arranged for an interview with Premier R. B. Bennett. They placed their "demands" before the premier who answered them briefly but without encouraging them in any way.

There were perhaps 200 in the group reaching Ottawa, according to the reports from the capital. The delegates included two from Timmins, these two certainly not representing the unemployed here. Of course the usual "fool parades," as Mayor Drew termed them very aptly, were staged in Ottawa, but did not attract much of a crowd in comparison to the size of the city, only about five thousand spectators turning out. An attempt to hold a meeting in the square back of the post office was broken up by police. While one of the Ottawa detectives was ordering some of the men to move on he was struck over the head with one of the banners carried. The man who struck him did the trick from behind and at once ran away. Another detective noticed the brave game and gave chase, capturing the gallant banner carrier. The fellow gave his name as Brown, his residence as Toronto, and his birthplace as Russia. Three other arrests were made. Later the men thus arrested were allowed to go.

In view of the fact known to all people with any information on the subject that the whole communist movement is based on the use of force and violence, and also, perhaps, because of threats made on the life of the premier and members of the Government precautions were taken to avoid trouble and to handle it if it arrived. There were 100 uniformed men of the R.C.M.P. guarding the gates of Parliament Hill with 26 "Mounties" behind the parliament buildings in readiness for any trouble. There was also a special squad of 50 Ottawa police on duty with 35 additional on call at the station. The police were kept busy for a couple of hours keeping traffic open.

Thirty-five of the supposed representatives of the unemployed were received in the Railway Committee room by Mr. Bennett and the majority of the Cabinet. The "demands" presented were the same as those read to the Timmins town council three weeks or so ago.

The Prime Minister, in refusing to consider the "demand" for non-contributory insurance for unemployed in Canada reiterated his statements made recently to the Trades and Labour Council, in which he declared that the only thing, in his judgment, which could be done in the form of insurance for unemployed would be a form of insurance to which employers, employees and the state would contribute in times of well-being to look after those who might unfortunately be out of work.

Mr. Bennett also warned his hearers that it was unlawful in Canada to hold Communist gatherings and that persons who did so were liable to imprisonment. He counselled his audience to seek their end by lawful means.

Hon. Mr. Bennett said he had received that morning from Toronto a list of the "demands." He emphasized the word, "demands." Turning to the delegates he asked: "Who speaks for you?" "This chap here," one of the delegates spoke up, pointing to James Litterick, of Toronto.

The latter opened his remarks with the statement that in presenting a bill for non-contributory unemployment insurance he would preface his remarks with a statement of what the delegation expected.

The Prime Minister: "Never mind what you expect. What do you want?" Mr. Litterick then proceeded to read what was entitled "The Workers' 1933 Unemployment Insurance Bill," in which a demand was made for full wages for a full period of unemployment without distinction of sex, colour or national origin. The bill would apply equally to citizens and non-citizens of Canada, he said. To meet the expenses necessary he suggested a tax on capital and the contribution of estimates for armaments and war loans. The fund would be administered and controlled through the workers themselves by a special committee to be named by the unemployed.

Mr. Litterick then went on to expand on each point. The unemployed were not asking for charity. He declared there had been discrimination in the distribution of relief between

persons born in Canada and those not of British origin. The proposed bill, he said, would apply equally to everybody, including the Orientals in British Columbia.

Mr. Litterick declared the Dominion Government today was a "hunger Government, a starvation Government, and a wage-cutting Government which had given leadership to the bosses of the country in the reduction of salaries."

The Prime Minister: "The House is opening in a few minutes. I did not come here to hear a speech."

Mr. Litterick: "I won't be very long now."

Prime Minister: "You certainly won't."

The spokesman went on to claim that terrorism had been employed against those out of work and stated that only that morning one of the delegates had been "beaten up" and arrested by police in Ottawa.

Prime Minister: "Now, Mr. Litterick, you must be pretty nearly through. The House opens in a few minutes."

Mr. Litterick: "I'll only be a few minutes more."

Prime Minister: "Well, make it very short."

Mr. Litterick then went on to say the delegation had no expectation that their demand for non-contributory unemployment insurance would be met. The delegation represented unemployed from 57 cities and towns across Canada, he said, where 250,000 persons were out of work.

The Prime Minister: "Well, all right, that will do."

Mr. Bennett proceeded to reply. Statements made by Mr. Litterick, he said, had been made with great skill, but unfortunately for him he had on previous occasions threatened the use of force.

No one doubted that the Government was deeply interested in the welfare of the people of Canada, but they should also be interested in preserving and safeguarding their own lives. The Government could not and would not allow any defiance of authority.

He had told a delegation a year ago that there would be no non-contributory insurance and no Government of which he was the head would ever change this stand.

The Government had spent many millions of dollars to assist in the present crisis, relatively more than any other country. Conditions in Canada, he added, were not as bad as in many other countries.

They might cartoon the members of the Government, call them the "bosses of the big interests" or anything else, but the Government would continue to discharge to the best of their ability their duties to the people of Canada and would not be deterred by fear or threats.

If one of their number had been arrested, he assured the delegates that this man would be given absolute British justice and fair play.

As he concluded one of the delegates asked, "May I contradict one of your statements, Mr. Prime Minister?"

"I have no doubt that you will contradict all of them," retorted Mr. Bennett as he walked out of the room.

**Timmins All-Stars Win from Schumacher Bowlers**

By winning three points from Schumacher last Thursday evening, the local bowlers evened up the count for the Inter-town league leadership with six points each and seven more matches to play. The first two games of the evening were close and exciting, but the last game was a complete triumph for last year's champions, who trimmed up Schumacher by over 300 pins. McMillan (258, 292, 188-738) and Morandin (214, 236, 231-681) were the outstanding bowlers for Schumacher, while Art Tomkinson (230, 244, 263-737) and Tom Whitney (242, 211, 241-694) were the mainstay of the Timmins crew. Schumacher 1018, 1093, 871-2982 Timmins 1054, 1086, 1174-3314

The next scheduled match will be played at Schumacher this (Thursday) evening at eight o'clock sharp.

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