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Delegates Unanimously Endorse Canadian Autonomy Proposal

SPOKANE—The 250 delegates to the 50th annual International convention approved by an unanimous vote the resolution on Canadian autonomy, after many-angled discussion in which even criticism was of an entirely constructive nature.

The full text of the resolution, which historically may mark a new epoch in unionism on this continent, is as follows:

This 50th Convention of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers recognizes its historic obligation to continued the advance made in recent years towards the establishment of complete autonomy for the membership of our Union in Canada.

This Convention endorses the previous actions of our membership, by convention and by referendum vote, which established the Canadian Mine-Mill Council and the office of Canadian Vice-President. The time has now arrived to take the final steps to complete the achievement of full autonomy in Canada.

These steps call for the fur-

ther amendment of the International Constitution as provided below. The adoption of these amendments will automatically abolish the Canadian Mine-Mill Council, which will be replaced by an Executive Board elected by the Canadian membership. They will likewise abolish the offices of Canadian Vice-President and Board Member of District 8, which will be replaced by offices provided for in a Constitution to be established by the local unions in Canada.

If candidates are nominated for these offices at this Convention and the amendments are subsequently adopted by refer-

(Continued on Page Eight)

NIMSICK ON COMPENSATION

VICTORIA: Leo T. Nimsick, M.L.A. Cranbrook - Kimberley, spoke at some length at the sessions of the legislature on the necessity of further amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Brother Nimsick has several times made representations to the board on behalf of injured workmen, and has shown a great deal of interest in this question. He cited many instances of workers who had been disqualified or arbitrarily dealt with by the board under the existing Act and regulations. Good work, Leo!

EDITORIAL

A Job Well Done

The unanimous vote of the delegates to the 50th International Convention of Mine-Mill to recommend to the membership in both the United States and Canada to establish a fully autonomous Canadian union within the International, is an action which puts this union in the leadership in developing a real Internationalism among the workers in this industry on both sides of the Canadian-U.S. boundary.

The International executive board in recommending this action to the convention did so after fully considering the effects on the union as a whole, and with the sole purpose of strengthening the union on both sides of the border. The unanimity at the convention, a convention marked with great enthusiasm, expressed by the delegates representing the rank and file of the whole continent is itself the most convincing evidence of the correctness of this step.

The enemies of our union sought to present this as a secessionist movement, and again proclaimed that the Mine-Mill and Smelter Workers' Union is disintegrating. They know that within the Canadian membership of every union there has long been a great desire for Canadian autonomy. They have sought to stifle that demand by stricter and more bureaucratic control and domination. They have been able to enforce their policy by expulsions, suspensions, and threats. Fear of the International officers and the U.S. headquarters is rampant.

Our union is based on a voluntary association. It is based on rank and file control. It is based upon the referendum and the election by secret ballot of the leadership. This is its strength. This is its effectiveness, and with this the recognition of the national rights of all the membership will further advance this union in Canada.

Other international unions have degraded unionism by placing in their constitutions provisions for loyalty oaths and thought control, interfering in the political rights of the members. Such moves were also made in the Mine-Mill, and have always been defeated by the rank and file who have the say, and all workers working in the industry can join our union without any fear of discrimination because of their religious, political or national status.

To the officers of the International Union and to the delegates attending the 50th convention, we say a job well done, and we urge the whole membership in the forthcoming referendum on the amendments to the constitution and on the election of International officers, to get out and vote.

Wage Policy Determined At Cominco - Inco Meeting

TRAIL—In the historic Rosland Miners' Hall a meeting was convened on March 20 for a mass wage scale conference under the chairmanship of Canadian Vice-President Nels Thibault and with over fifty representatives present.

The local unions represented almost 24,000 miners, millmen, smelters, and the chemical and fertilizer divisions of Cominco, the basic metal mining industry of the country — the men who produce 95 percent of the nickel of the whole world, the men who produce 90 percent of the lead, and the greatest proportion of zinc, silver and the important chemicals and fertilizer upon which Canada's whole economy and the economy of a big part of the world is dependent.

Present also were the delegates returning from the historic 50th convention of the International Union in Spokane, Washington, and the officers and shop stewards of the Trail local union which was host to the gathering.

While the Spokane convention proclaimed the autonomous rights of Mine-Mill in Canada, this conference put into action

as a result of discussions in the various local unions the proposals to be made in this year's bargaining with the two decisive mining corporations, International Nickel and the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company.

PROGRAM

The wage program which comes from the rank and file discussions is as follows, and was approved unanimously:

- 1. Wages**—That we specify the wage demand, along with the other demands, of 10¢ an hour.
- 2. Pension Plan Improvements**—To reduce retirement age to 60 or after 30 years of service regardless of age at the workers option.
- 3. Health and Welfare**—Total costs pertaining to medical, hospital, surgical, dental, insurance plans, and sick leave as applicable to each local situation.

4. Vacations—One week after one year, two weeks after two years, three weeks after ten years, and four weeks after 25 years.

5. Statutory Holidays—Eight days, removal of all restrictions, and if worked paid at the rate of two and one-half times.

6. Layoffs—That the union be consulted when lay-offs are contemplated for the purpose of discussion of ways and means to avert them.

7. Hours of Work and Overtime—Re-affirm our position that Saturday and Sunday work be paid at punitive rates.

NEGOTIATING UNITY

The conference urged that the closest co-ordination between the bargaining committees at International Nickel and Cominco be enforced.

The meeting heard a report from the International convention by President Mike Solaki

(Continued on Page Eight)