

shares by virtue of exhortation. The agents for the sale of stock are, like Mr. McCrossan, preachers—worthy men who at the solicitation of their principal have actually visited the mines and so are well qualified and equipped to extol them “to the skies.” Each preacher has his little flock, and the arrangement seems to have worked very well. It is quite extraordinary, too, how the shares have appreciated in value, but so far as we can ascertain, the shareholders have to thank Mr. McCrossan’s benevolence for this; for as he holds controlling interests, one can well imagine the elevating pleasure he finds in exerting the power thus at his command of bringing joy to many a humble home by the simple process of merely announcing that the shares of such or such a one of his companies have been advanced. Although the space at our disposal is limited, we cannot refrain from adding to this short and necessarily imperfect notice a few remarks concerning another instance of Mr. McCrossan’s genius and enterprise. It appears that in his capacity of secretary and treasurer he was very much pestered by shareholders and others who wrote seeking information. Mr. McCrossan after doubtless deep and anxious cogitation as how best to deal with these numerous enquiries, hit on the brilliant plan of publishing a newspaper, and in due course *The British Columbia Monthly Mining Bulletin*, (four pages, price 25 cents per annum), made its appearance. As a journalistic achievement, the *Bulletin* is distinctly unique in that it is a sort of cross between a bucket-shop rag and the *War Cry*. The first object of the editor, the Rev. Chas. W. McCrossan, is to advertise, or rather boom, by the employment of the grossest exaggeration, the companies promoted by the Rev. Chas. W. McCrossan; the next to advertise a book entitled “Love and Life” written by the Rev. Chas. W. McCrossan, of whose work “the world-famed evangelist, Rev. E. P. Hammond says: Any minister, in this production, could find material for a dozen sermons. Skepticism is dealt with lovingly, yet masterfully”; finally and incidentally the *Bulletin* is used as a medium to advertise Heaven. Meanwhile as many people in British Columbia do not believe in the Rev. Chas. W. McCrossan, nor in his Lardau mining schemes, he should have here a fine field in which to exercise his ability as already described of dealing with sceptics.

Mr. W. Blakemore, who has just returned to the west from Montreal, was interviewed the other day by the Nelson *Daily News*, on the subject of the Kitchener iron mines. These properties, it will be remembered, were acquired last year by an eastern syndicate and the claims sufficiently developed to determine their value. They have now been crown-granted, but according to Mr. Blakemore there is nothing more to be done until the time is ripe for the establishment of steel works and the development of the mines. The state of the market and the general condition of affairs in the Pro-

vince would not justify the large expenditure which this would involve at the moment, but the company is prepared to go ahead on the lines outlined as soon as such a course is justifiable. Meanwhile plans are being prepared and the necessary preparations being made for the erection of a steel plant, and the actual work will be inaugurated at no distant date. This season no work will be done on the property except the necessary assessment work on properties bonded. It is understood that the company is fully satisfied with the merits of the property, and intend to establish steel works in due course, but the only question is as to whether the conditions are favourable for launching so large and so costly an enterprise at the present moment. During Mr. Blakemore’s absence in the east the ore was submitted to the most trying tests by the best experts in analysis, and these proved that his opinion as to the value of the property is correct.

It appears to us that the public has been misled by the promoters of the Similkameen Valley Coal Co., Ltd. The object of this concern, everyone supposed, was the exploitation of coal areas in the Similkameen valley. From a recently issued report of the managing director it would certainly seem that the coal mining is merely a secondary consideration—a sort of side issue, and that the company is really devoting its chief energies towards the production of “gas.” We are of course aware that gas is manufactured from coal, but here evidently the order is to be reversed. The company meanwhile is to be congratulated on its recent output—of gas, not coal or “even lignite”; but the colossal assurance of the managing director in publishing broadcast through the country such a report as that in which he unblushingly states that out of some twenty-eight thousand dollars of working capital subscribed by the public, over seven thousand or about a quarter of the whole amount has been squandered in newspaper advertising, is beyond all admiration. An undertaking with a managing director so well disposed towards the press deserves to succeed, but whether it will is another matter.

Steps are now being taken towards the organization of local sections or branches of the Canadian Mining Institute in each of the prominent mining districts of Canada, and for this purpose a meeting is shortly to be held in Kingston, Ontario, to form an Eastern Ontario section, while in June meetings will be held at Sherbrooke, Quebec, to organise an Eastern Township section, and also at Sydney, Cape Breton, to arrange for a branch representing the province of Nova Scotia. Later on in the year it is proposed to organise one or two branches in British Columbia, one with headquarters at Nelson and another at the Coast. The project is that these local branches shall embody the best elements in