

further reduction. Whether the end they have in view will be gained by those behind this agitation remains to be seen, but apart altogether from considerations of benefit that may be derived by any particular town or smelter there is the question of cost of treatment of the ore. If it be true as repeatedly alleged, that the company can get its ore smelted in the province for \$1.00 or \$1.25 per ton less than it can smelt it at its own works, then shareholders will not be content to go on missing the opportunity of making that much more profit out of the ore. No such question of sentiment as the one that, being a British organisation, the Le Roi company should not assist in building up an important industry in a foreign country, to the detriment of British Columbia, is likely to have much weight with shareholders, but if they be convinced that more money can be made by having the ore smelted in this province it is probable they will eventually insist that the smelting shall be done in British Columbia, but not otherwise.

On August 5 last the *Victoria Colonist* published some estimates of the mineral production of the chief mining districts of the province for the first six months of the current year, which estimates had been prepared by some one employed by that journal for the purpose. A head-line writer, incorrectly assuming that the figures were prepared in the office of the Department of Mines, included in the heading the words "Departmental Statistics show an Important Increase over last Year." Outside of a few newspapers to which a correspondent in the *Colonist* office sent a summary of the estimated mineral production, and two or three others that were honest enough to acknowledge the source of their information, the mistake of the head-line writer in the *Colonist* office proved a veritable trap for newspapers and mining journals given to "cribbing." A dozen or more Provincial newspapers varied their head-lines and introductory comments, but all made the same mistake of regarding the statistics as departmental, while neither the Provincial Mineralogist nor any one else in the Department of Mines had anything to do with the preparation of the figures, which were the result only of the enterprise of the *Colonist*. The infection spread to Eastern Canada, the United States, and even Great Britain, the Provincial Mineralogist or the Department of Mines having been credited far and wide with figures that the *Colonist* alone was responsible and deserved credit for. The incident is not of much importance, but it shows how little value can properly be attached to statements published in numbers of publications purporting to be reliable, but which appropriate the results of the work of others without hesitation or acknowledgment.

We publish this month a description of the ore roasting yards and accompanying appliances at the Tyee Copper Company's smelter, at Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, together with an account of the brick-making methods in use at those works preliminary to burning the fine ore in the roast heaps.

The distinctive features of the roast yards, viz., permanent trestles, travelling bridges to facilitate the building of the roast piles and at the same time to economise labour, and the practice of burning or roasting the ore in much smaller piles than is customary at other smelters, are of particular interest, for they demonstrate that so long as there is room for the introduction of improvements in plant and methods, the manager of these works is not content to plod along in the old groove. Not only are the plant and methods at the Tyee roast yards distinctive, but they are simple, thoroughly practical, and economical, as, too, are those in connection with the making into bricks and roasting of the fine ore. Mr. Thos. Kiddie, the manager, is of an inventive turn. His efforts in the direction above indicated having proved successful, it may be expected that he will find other means of effecting savings in operating costs. Since every reduction in the cost of treatment enlarges the tonnage available for smelting, by making it practicable to mine and smelt ores of a lower grade at a profit, each economic success achieved is welcomed, not only as tending to increase revenue to the owners of reduction works, but as making it possible to utilise more and more of the mineral resources of the Province. For this reason, as well as from a desire to keep readers of the *MINING RECORD* informed of improvements made, we are gratified that our request to have the information contained in the descriptive article alluded to placed at our disposal for publication has been courteously acceded to.

The statement that the first blister copper ever produced in Canada was turned out by a Boundary smelter may have been made in good faith, albeit in ignorance, but it was on a par with other extravagant and erroneous claims made in newspapers relative to mining and smelting in that district, which may well rest content with the assertion that its mining and smelting costs are very low, even though they cannot be shown to be the lowest in the world. A similar mistake appears to have been made by the Montreal Copper Company, an Eastern organization, which the *Canadian Manufacturer* lately credited with having claimed to have turned out the first refined ingot copper ever produced in Canada. Now, since the Orford Copper Company produced much refined ingot copper in the Province of Quebec as long ago as 1880, as, too, did a Scottish company operating in the same province, even earlier, it is evident that the claim of the Montreal Copper Company, if made as stated, can not be sustained. Similarly there is little difficulty in showing that much of the boasting done in this province is only "hot air" and it simply results in distracting attention from the fact that really good work is being done here, at an exceptionally low cost, apart altogether from the question of whether or not we can "liek creation" in our smelting operations. Let us be content to make it widely known that conditions are unusually favourable and costs low, and we shall be far more likely to attract the serious attention of capitalists than if we make assertions they