

ports on the Atlin and West and East Kootenay districts.

The Chicamon Stone, by Clive Phillipps-Wolley; London: Geo. Bell & Sons, 1900; Colonial Edition, 75 cents.

Some months ago Robert Barr, himself a Canadian bred and born, who has won if not an eminent at least a most respectable place in the world of letters, wrote an article which was published in a leading Toronto magazine, pointing out, with much truth, that literary effort was so lightly regarded in Canada that no man who had achieved more than a local success could afford to remain in his native land, that is, if he desires to market his wares to favourable advantage. Mr. Phillipps-Wolley, it is true, is a Canadian only by adoption, but in the thirteen or more years in which he has resided amongst us, he has so identified himself with Western life, so thoroughly entered into the spirit that comes from an intimate acquaintance with the sublimity and silence of our bleak mountain ranges and the gloom and grandeur of century-old forests of pine that he has succeeded, both in verse and prose, in depicting truly the ideas and manners of life of the Westerner. Yet, while the influential British press has unstintingly praised this work of a British Columbian, we who should be first are last and feeblest in expressing our appreciation. It is a strange state of affairs. In Mr. Wolley's capital tale, the "Chicamon Stone," the scene is laid in Cassiar and the whole story rests on the exciting search under great difficulties for a vein, the whereabouts of which are known to the native Indians and to which the hero's attention is first drawn by the exhibition of a marvellously rich sample of quartz (actually in the possession of a store keeper at Wrangel) brought out by Siyah Joe. The book is so well worth reading that we do not propose to lessen the interest by following, as is sometimes customary in reviews, the evolution of the author's plot to its climax. It may, however, be said in conclusion that the "Chicamon Stone" is the strongest book Mr. Wolley has yet written, and the descriptions of the wild Cassiar scenery in particular are exceptionally vivid and powerful. If one were inclined to be captious, the one defect, if it can be so classed, is the author's apparent enthusiasm for brutal and revolting situations, and perhaps his work would not lose in popularity if this tendency was held in check.

TECHNICAL PERIODICALS OF THE MONTH.

THE ENGINEERING MAGAZINE.

The Engineering Magazine and International Review for July contains a number of very interesting articles, of which three in particular draw more than passing attention. An article by W. H. Donner on "Power Features at the Paris Exhibition" is well illustrated and to those interested in machinery, who have not visited the Exhibition, will form a good description of wonders they have not seen; while those who have been in Paris, or are going there, will find it none the less valuable as an indication of the most prominent features of the Exhibition in this respect.

"The History and Progress of Mining in British Columbia," another article by H. Mortimer Lamb, gives in a very clear and succinct manner a great amount of information about the Province, which has been extracted from official reports and other authentic documents with great care, and presented to the

average reader in a most readable form. It is profusely illustrated and should form a most valuable introduction to British Columbia's greatest industry to those, and they are many, whose sympathies with regard to mining exceed their knowledge. "A British View of the Iron Trade" is another article containing much matter for reflection. It sketches the causes and progress of the recent boom in the steel and iron trade and points out with some justice that the boom conditions are beginning to disappear. The relations of the different productive countries are compared and the conclusion is arrived at that the outlook for the iron trade of Great Britain in the face of the competition of the United States is glowing in the extreme:

"There is no gainsaying the fact that the iron and steel manufacturers of Europe are beginning to look with anxious eyes to the United States. It seems to those who think they can discern the coming events casting their shadows before that the sword of Damocles is suspended over the heads of those who are now enjoying a feast of fat things. That sword is the near competition of the United States. It is, moreover, a two-handed sword, for it cuts to the very dividing asunder of joints and marrow by an admitted capacity to produce more cheaply than European countries, and it also presents the very formidable aspect of threatening to dump a vast surplus on neutral markets, on terms that are not competitive at all. To be perfectly candid, this latter is the form of competition of which the people of Europe are most afraid, because they are most powerless to resist it, and this remark, of course, applies more especially to Great Britain, which is a free-trade country."

It may be noted that the writer does not take into account the iron deposits of Canada, which are the largest known in the world; which have been brought into notice on account of the boom conditions which have recently prevailed; and must shortly become an appreciable factor in iron and steel production.

MINES AND MINERALS.

Mines and Minerals for July contains articles on the mines of Butte, Cape Nome and Rossland, all of which are interesting, the last particularly so to British Columbians. It is a highly technical article, but at the same time most descriptive and appreciative of our greatest mining camp.

THE ALASKAN MAGAZINE.

The Alaskan Magazine and Canadian Yukoner is a new publication, dating from Tacoma. What a Yukoner is we don't know, still less a Canadian Yukoner. But if the *Alaskan Magazine* is a Yukoner, all that can be said is that it denotes something much better than the barbarous term would lead us to expect. The magazine contains a considerable amount of interesting reading matter.

The world's ironmasters are stated to be apprehensive of a shortage in the world's supply of the raw material which they use so increasingly year by year. This fact explains the suddenly displayed eagerness of Eastern States ironmasters to investigate our Province's ore supplies on Barclay Sound, and suggests that in the early future other British Columbia iron ore deposits will come quite into request. Then for the first time will serious efforts be made to ascertain the extent of our Province's possessions in rich iron ore, which there is every reason to believe will be found to be far larger than is at present even surmised. Hitherto nobody has troubled himself much in regard to finding and developing our iron ores, except to a very limited extent for smelter fluxing.