

smelter will be thrown in. But would it not be much simpler for him to make the city a present of \$10,000 and be done with it." Which seems very funny, but is unfortunately as inaccurate as it is funny, which rather blunts the point of the satire. The smelter is by means "to be thrown in." To begin with, the company asks the city for a monopoly of smelter aid—surely worth a good deal—next calls for a free site, worth, of course, many thousand dollars; and, thirdly, demands freedom from civic taxation for twenty years, which means an exemption value of at least \$10,000. Then there is the bonus of 50 cents per annum on a maximum aggregate of 30,000 tons of ore, equal to \$15,000 a year. And against all these things, the city is to receive—only, of course, if earned, a preferred stock dividend of ten per cent. on £50,000, debenture interest coming first. Now, if the concern only paid expenses, after meeting six per cent. debenture interest on £50,000, or only yielded a small per centage on its stock, preferred and otherwise, as might indeed happen, there would be no \$25,000 of revenue for the city to set against a yearly payment of \$15,000 for bonus, plus the gift of a costly site and a valuable tax exemption. No, good sir, of the Province, the Anglo-Continental Public Works Company is not, even in seeming, offering to throw in a smelter and also give the city \$10,000 a year. Not so foolish are that company's backers by any means. London promoters usually make keen enough bargains, and such a one they now seek to make, but probably won't succeed in making with the good city of Vancouver.

CONCERNING KLONDIKE.

The MINING CRITIC by no means favors Mr. Hanson Boorne's proposal, that either the Provincial government or the cities of Vancouver and Victoria should set up for display at some central point in the city of London, England, a pyramid or other mass of gold from the Klondike. He suggests an outlay of \$150,000 in buying gold for this purpose. Gold representing even so large a sum in cash as \$150,000 would not, after all, make a very big showing for bulk, gold being so heavy a substance. But another and greater objection to the proposal can be adduced. Already quite as much British money and more than enough generally unsuited British gold-seeking emigrants are being attracted to the hard country of the Yukon, and, in our opinion, it were little short of criminal to add to the rush of such unsuitable immigrants and increase the number of Klondike companies, of which there are enough and to spare already. Were Mr. Hanson Boorne's project used to advertise well and forcibly in London the enormously greater mineral resources of British Columbia, where a Briton can live and thrive, it would be worthy of consideration, for the United Kingdom knows sadly little yet, save through company promotions, too often of a doubtful class, of the enormous potentialities of our vast gold and copper fields, our magnificent lead and silver districts, and of coal and iron resources capable of building up in the early future vast manufacturing industries of many kinds in well-favored Pacific Canada. The wealth of the Klondike to be got at and out in a few short years, will not begin to compare with the permanent riches of British Columbia, and this, however much men boom the Klondike, the world will very speedily ascertain. Meanwhile when the river and lake navigations open up North there should some few weeks hence be ample Yukon trade opportunities for the general outfitters of our British Columbia cities, who will, however, if prudent, not stock too much ahead. Assuredly the Yukon boom won't last. Next autumn is its probable limit, though after that date a fair trade may for perhaps a decade be done with a Yukon mining population of

not more than 25,000 or 30,000. It is better commercially to anticipate facts than to see bright visions glowing in momentary, iridescence but rapidly vanishing into thin air.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Evidently this is to be a busy mining season in East Kootenay, as preparations for extensive development work are being made at many points in that division of our Province most promising precious-metal opportunities revealing themselves moreover at quite new points in East Kootenay, in addition to such already noted producers as the North Star and St. Eugene mines. East Kootenay should in 1898 easily double, likely enough treble its precious metal, lead and copper production of 1897. Yet less than four years ago there was so little profitable mining or prospecting work being done in East Kootenay that almost all the local miners seemed—though still in a majority of cases sanguine enough—quite "dead broke." Now, however, all is eagerly expectant animation in East Kootenay, and there won't this year, as at the period of the last Provincial general election, be there found such a big array of men eagerly pleading for Provincial government work on the roads, if only for a week or two.

The C. P. R. and Molson's Bank are carrying out the adage, "Carry coals to Newcastle," with a vengeance by importing for their respective new buildings in Vancouver stone from far-off Calgary, paying in cash or in kind for a very long railroad haul, instead of obtaining finer stone from Haddington Island or some other British Columbia quarries easily accessible by sea from Vancouver. The explanation is said to be that the bank took over a Calgary quarry for a doubtful debt, and has now made a deal with the C. P. R. as to the sale of part of the stone and conveyance of it to Vancouver. The noble pile of the Provincial Parliament buildings at Victoria shows what fine looking and eminently durable building stone we have along this coast of southern British Columbia, but it is left for the C. P. R. and a newly imported financial institution from the East to make the present practical disparagement of one of our many Provincial resources. Somewhat short-sighted policy surely in either case.

The Vancouver Daily Province now thinks it best for the Mann-Mackenzie arrangement to be declared "wholly off" by the Dominion, proper compensation for work done being duly made, of course, to the greatly disappointed contractors. By all means, says our contemporary, let the Stickline-Teslin railroad be now built as a government undertaking. Not very long ago the Daily Province thought the Mann-Mackenzie deal a case in which "theories should yield to conditions," and for the sake of party abandoned principle; threw overboard the support of the principle of state ownership, and shouted itself hoarse in support of Mr. Sifton's "deal." Our contemporary is now reconverted once more, and "does business at the old stand"—perhaps, however, as before, *pro tempore* only. [Since the above was written our contemporary has already repented of the above noted reconversion and begun to advocate a Provincial arrangement with Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie.—ED.]

If Mr. D. C. Corbin gets his Dominion railroad charter, the Silvertonian states that he will build a big smelter at Grand Forks. But in this case the significant little word "if" means everything, for it would seem that a "chopping and changing" and railroad ridden House of Commons has reversed its previous decision and thrown out Mr. Corbin's Kettle River railroad bill, despite all the