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THE MONTH.

We note the finding in the Province of scheelite, a rare mineral one of the chief uses of which is in the hardening of steel. The specimens containing this mineral were found in the Cariboo district and, being new to the finders, were sent to the Provincial Assayer for identification. We print on another page some particulars relating to this mineral and its occurrence elsewhere. Some small specimens have been placed in the Mineral Museum of the Department of Mines, Victoria.

A first clean-up at the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Company's mine at Bullion has, it is reported, resulted in the recovery of gold valued at \$60,000, an increase of about twenty-five per cent. on last season's aggregate yield. It is possible as the conditions appear to be more than usually favourable, that two more "clean-ups" may be made ere the season closes, and the total recovery for 1904 should then compare to somewhat better advantage with the company's past achievements in this regard, before light rain-falls and adverse weather conditions had so inopportunately restricted operations.

At a meeting of the Vermillion Forks Mining and Development Company held recently in London, the chairman remarked that the Company was probably

the most economically worked undertaking of its class in the city. In support of this contention he stated that during the past fourteen months the total expenditure had been £1,800, of which £716 represented the cost of boring for coal. One seam of coal 28 feet wide had been proved by this means, and the product tested with the most satisfactory results at the Nickel Plate mine. The Vermillion Forks Mining and Development Company is one of many promising undertakings in the Similkameen district, the ultimate success of which is, however, entirely dependent on the establishment of railway connection with market centres. From recent developments there is reason to hope that this great desideratum will not be withheld for a very much longer period.

It is to be hoped that the Hon. Senator Templeman will not be unmindful of the promise made by him at the Convention of the Provincial Mining Association in February last, to the effect that the reports relating to British Columbian mining sections and incorporated in the annual summaries issued by the Canadian Geological Survey, would be printed in separate form and arrangements made for their free distribution among prospectors and others in this Province to whom the information contained therein would often prove of incalculable value. The reports of the Department are becoming of more and more value and interest, as while they still naturally continue to stand as records of purely scientific investigation, yet more attention than formerly appears to be now devoted to what might be perhaps described as practical details; hints and suggestions which might well be frequently turned to profitable account by the prospector and claim owner.

The announcement by cable despatched by the manager of the Cariboo Consolidated to the London office that bed-rock has been reached in the west drift of La Fontaine, and that the gravel there encountered appears to be very rich, is eminently gratifying. There are few undertakings in British Columbia of greater industrial importance than those upon which effort is now being directed in Cariboo to demonstrate the auriferous character of the ancient river systems by deep level mining. The difficulties so far encountered have been enormous though, as