

The extraordinary short sightedness of one United States federal administration has rendered it impossible to develop the Nome coal resources of Alaska. While this is in itself a vain and foolish thing, and is to be directly attributed to the insane overdoing of the conservation idea, yet it has inured to the benefit of British Columbia coal mines. Our readers may possibly remember that when Mr. Gifford Pinchot, the evangel of conservation, visited Alaska, the inhabitants were reported to have clothed themselves in the darkest mourning, and to have put all the flags at half mast.

Despite a short-sighted Federal Government, there appears to be reason to believe that Alaska will soon come into her own.

THE LEAD BOUNTIES

The Budget speech of Honourable Mr. W. T. White contained the pleasing announcement that the Dominion lead bounties are to be continued. This, of course, will be excellent news for our friends in the West.

The huge surplus of \$55,000,000 permits the present Government to deal liberally with such industries as legitimately need assistance.

In the course of the Honourable Mr. White's speech, he devoted considerable attention to the lead bounties. Provision for the payment of these bounties expires on June 30 of this year. The total appropriation set aside in 1903 was \$6,000,000. On account of the high market price of lead not all of this was expended. In fact, there will be \$600,000 unexpended on July 1st, 1913.

The proposal is to extend these bounties for five years, the necessary appropriation to include the unexpended \$600,000. When the price of lead in the London markets exceeds 17 pounds, 8 shillings, 9 pence per ton, the bounty automatically is withdrawn until such time as the price falls.

It is a matter of record that since the inception of the bounties, the Canadian production of lead has increased from about 8,000,000 pounds to 34,000,000 pounds.

Incidentally, we may express our approval of the reduction of the tariff on cement. Slight as this reduction is, it will mean something to the Canadian purchaser.

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The third circular of the International Geological Congress has just come to hand. This is to be the last general circular. Further official information will be sent only to actual members of the Congress. As applications to join the excursion are exceeding all expectations, it is decidedly necessary that those who have

not applied for membership do so at once. This particularly applies to appointed delegates who have not yet sent in applications, nor designated the excursions in which they desire to participate.

regards excursions. One in particular, excursion A9, will start from Kingston. Another excursion, C1, will be modified so as to eliminate the visit to Munson on Sept. 3. Still another change in excursions CI, and CII will time the visit to the Sudbury nickel copper deposits for the beginning, and not the end of these excursions.

As matters stand now, the date for leaving Montreal for Quebec and the Maritime Provinces is fixed for Sunday, July 13; for leaving Montreal for Sudbury, Cobalt, and Porcupine, Wednesday, July 23; for leaving Montreal for Haliburton and Bancroft, July 24; and the opening day is set for Thursday, Aug. 7th, in Toronto.

Members of the Congress may secure single tickets at half the lowest, one way, first-class fare. Round trip tickets may be secured at the price of the lowest, one-way, first-class fare, provided the same route be followed going and returning. Tickets will be used from July 15th to Oct. 31, 1913, but cannot be used or purchased after the latter date. These arrangements apply only to professional members, non-professional members are, however, granted almost equivalent privileges.

Since the fee for membership is only \$5.00, all those desiring to join any of the excursions should apply at once to the secretary, Victoria Museum, Ottawa.

It may be noted here, that the monograph on the coal resources of the world is to be published in the form of three, not two, quarto volumes, and a folio atlas.

All possible arrangements have been made for the convenience of excursionists. On another page will be found a reproduction of part of the third official circular.

A SUGGESTION FROM THE WEST

The British Columbia Mining Association has placed itself on record as appreciating highly the work of Mr. R. F. Green, M.P. for Kootenay, B.C. To his hard work, and to the clear-sightedness of the Honourable Mr. W. T. White, is attributed the continuance of the lead bonus.

At the same meeting the Ottawa Government was again strongly requested to create a separate Portfolio of Mines at Ottawa. To this request was joined the suggestion that Mr. Green be appointed Minister of Mines.

While the suggestion of creating a separate Portfolio of Mines is one in which we thoroughly concur, and one that we have been urging for some years, it is our opinion that the British Columbia Mining Association