

fact it was very generally believed that the ore deposits had become exhausted. The company, after spending three years in searching for the main lead at depth, abandoned the effort in despair, but at the instance of Mr. Garde the work was again resumed, and this time with gratifying results, a strong and well-defined vein averaging two and a half feet wide having been encountered some few months ago. The mine has now, it is estimated, a total reserve of 87,000 tons of concentrating material, the net value of which, based on present low metal prices, is sixty dollars per ton. It should be noted, however, that the company has now exhausted its cash balance and unless the mine may now be considered self-supporting some sort of reconstruction may be necessary.

The Boundary Creek *Times* draws attention to the fact that a so-called mining paper, the *Mining Bureau*, published in Boston, has made the quite unwarrantable statement that two important Boundary mining undertakings, the B. C. Copper Company and the Montreal & Boston Copper Company, are "nothing but stock-jobbing propositions." The allegation is unsupported by proof of any kind: on the other hand both the companies mentioned are expending large sums of money in the development of their respective enterprises, and on our own knowledge, we are prepared to say this expenditure is being laid out to the best possible advantage having regard to the early establishment of the enterprises upon a profit-earning footing. But it might be pointed out to the Boston *Mining Bureau*, meanwhile, that it has omitted to expose some of the obvious instances of wild-catting and stock-jobbing in connection with recently American-promoted B. C. mining concerns, of which advertisements appear in its columns. We would suggest the early rectification of the oversight.

As is well known the smelting industry in the Kootenays is entirely at the mercy of the Crow's Nest Coal Company, not only as regards the price of fuel, which, however, is reasonably moderate, but under present conditions the metalliferous industry may at any moment be brought to a standstill as a result of too often recurring strikes and lock-outs at the coal mines. A new company, meanwhile, has been recently incorporated, in which the Granby Mining Company is said to be heavily interested, to develop and operate coal measures at Blairmore, some forty-five miles to the east of Fernie. The field has not yet been exploited to any very considerable extent, but nine seams are known to

occur on the property, the geological conditions being identical with those obtaining at Fernie. From an independent source we are assured that the Blairmore coal yields an excellent coke, giving not more than a 7 per cent. ash. In the interests of copper mining in the Boundary we wish the new enterprise every success.

The month has been very prolific of reported strikes—of ore, not the kind to which we are beginning to be most accustomed. Thus within the last two or three weeks important developments are said to have taken place at the Le Roi, Le Roi No. 2, and Velvet at Rossland, at the Athabasca and Silver King at Nelson, at the Arlington and Speculator in the Slocan City Division; at the Rambler-Cariboo at McQuigan; at the Gold Finch at Camborne; and discoveries of high-grade ore, too numerous to mention, in the granite belt near Greenwood. A number of "deals" are also reported to have been made during the month; the local stock markets have been more active and altogether the outlook has become decidedly more encouraging.

#### THE MINISTER OF MINES REPORT FOR 1902

THE Report of the Minister of Mines for 1902 was last week presented to the Provincial Legislature. It is dated March 11, yet eleven weeks were permitted to elapse before it was made public. The delay in its issue, though shorter than that of last year, was an unreasonably long one, particularly under the circumstances that no estimate by the Provincial Mineralogist of the mineral production of the Province for the previous year was published last January, as was done in January, 1902. This delay is in part attributed to the difficulty experienced in obtaining statistical returns from a few of the mines, some ten per cent. of the producers having failed to make returns promptly, thereby holding back all the statistical tables. The enforcement of the law, which provides for the infliction of penalties for such neglect, would probably have a salutary effect and in future remove this cause of delay. Apart from this though, the Minister of Mines can not be commended in this instance for promptitude, it appearing on the face of it that nearly three months passed between the time of the completion of the report and its being made available for public use.

Looking at the statistics of production during 1902 by themselves it would appear that no advance was made in the Province by the mining industry during the year under notice, the total value of the minerals produced having been but \$17,486,550 as compared with \$20,086,780 for 1901, as shown in accompanying tables:—