

interest in the development of British Columbia's great mineral wealth; but the time is coming when the western province by sheer force of its intrinsic merits will recover its lost prestige amongst the investing public here."

The Canadian Metal Co., which a short time ago acquired the smelter at Pilot Bay, Kootenay Lake, lately tried a lead stack, described as a new furnace, the invention of M. Blanchard, of Spokane, Washington. It is the first of its kind to be used in Canada. A series of experiments has been carried out, chiefly with lead ores from the Canadian Metal Co.'s Blue Bell mine, Kootenay Lake, with results stated to have been considered very satisfactory.

In its review of "The Mining Market in 1905" the *London Mining Journal* makes the following brief reference to British Columbia mines: In British Columbia interest has attached to the Ymir and to Le Roi No. 2 by reason of discoveries of rich ore in each. The affairs of the Le Roi company have attracted a good deal of notice owing to the struggle between Mr. McMillan and his late co-directors, which has ended in the victory of the former. The shares have not moved much during the contest.

In its notes on "Mining Companies Registered in 1905" the *London Mining Journal* observes: British North America did not attract much attention in 1905, and the little it did was in favour of British Columbia, which gave six companies with a total of £975,000 capital, including the Princess Royal Gold, £500,000; the Slough Creek Gravel Gold and the Fraser Gold Reefs, each £200,000. The last mentioned registered in Guernsey. The Canadian Dominion gave only five companies of no magnitude. The Klondike district was, as in 1904, out of the list.

The opening up of the productive Douglas seam of coal from Departure Bay, near Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, by the Western Fuel Co. after much preliminary work is a matter for congratulation. The definite determination of the fact that there is in the Departure Bay coal fields a large quantity of coal of excellent quality has an important bearing upon the prospects of Nanaimo city and district. Both Douglas and Newcastle seams may be expected to henceforth contribute as large an output from this point as they have done in past years where worked elsewhere.

The following cablegram from the Provincial Department of Mines, received by the Agent-General for British Columbia in London, relative to the value of the mineral production of the Province for 1905, has been published in London newspapers: "Approximate estimate mineral production last year: Gold, \$5,960,000; silver, \$2,008,000; copper, \$5,480,000; lead, \$2,330,000; zinc, \$183,000; coal, \$3,330,000; coke, \$1,212,000; total, \$21,403,000." "Miscellaneous" accounts for the \$900,000 difference between

the totals of various items and grand total given in cablegram. Note: This shows an increase of more than \$2,000,000 over the value of the output for 1904.

During the week ended 25th inst. Granby Co.'s shares on the Boston market ranged from  $9\frac{1}{4}$  to  $10\frac{3}{8}$ , with the last sale at  $10\frac{1}{8}$ . The sales for the week totalled 10,907 shares. The range of this stock during the period from January, 1899, to January, 1906, was—lowest,  $2\frac{3}{8}$  in 1904, and highest,  $10\frac{1}{4}$  in 1905. The *United States Investor* says: "The Granby's production for 1905 amounted to 18,000,000 lb. of copper. It is estimated that the production for the current year will be increased by at least 6,000,000 lb., as the company is now making about 2,000,000 lb. per month."

Announcement has been made that the Canadian Metal Co.'s zinc smelter, at Frank, Alberta, will be in operation in February, and that as soon as the practice is perfected and costs accurately fixed, the competition will be keen for zinc ores. It has also been stated that it will not be long before the Pilot Bay plant will be in the market, and this will open up a competition for lead. Concentrating ores will be purchased, and this will afford a market for a product that finds no sale now.

In his annual report on coal mining, published by the United States Geological Survey, Mr. L. W. Parker makes reference to the effect of the competition of fuel oil with coal—a competition also felt by the coal mines of Vancouver Island, B. C. He says that the increased production of fuel oil in California has affected the production of lignite in that State and in Oregon, as well as the production of bituminous coals in Washington, in much the same way as the production of Texas oil has affected the coal mining industry of Arkansas and Indian Territory. So serious has this competition become that the Coos Bay mines in Oregon may be closed down at an early date.

The Mining Committee of the Provincial Legislature for this session consists of the following members: Messrs. J. R. Brown (Greenwood), C. W. D. Clifford (Skeena), W. Davidson (Slocan), G. A. Fraser (Grand Forks), R. Grant (Comox), S. Henderson (Yale), H. Jones (Cariboo), J. H. King (Cranbrook), A. McDonald (Lillooet), J. A. Macdonald (Rossland), J. D. McNiven (Victoria), J. Murphy (Cariboo), J. Oliver (Delta), W. R. Ross (Fernie), L. W. Shatford (Similkameen), H. Tanner (Saanich), Thos. Taylor (Revelstoke), W. C. Wells (Columbia), H. Wright (Ymir), and H. E. Young (Atlin).

Mr. Frederick Hobart, one of the associate editors of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, contributed to the *New York Times Annual Financial Review* an article on "The Year in Metal Mining," which was a short but comprehensive survey of the year's