

of curtailment, by lessening the length of the break-water and the extent of the dredging. Mr. Tarte is particularly fond of expressing his individual opinion, and during the discussion he let it be known that he is in favor of free canals; but the opinion of an individual member of the Government does not count for much, if his colleagues do not agree with him. There has never been any agitation for free canals, in Canada, and it is clear that no government could undertake to settle such a question without thorough discussion, which should show the public voice to be in favor of the change. If Mr. Tarte be right in thinking that the Intercolonial Railway should be made a paying road, why should a different rule be applied to the canals? If you apply a different rule you tax one set of people for benefits enjoyed by others.

A report comes from Manitoba that the new Government of that province will not recognize promises of railway bonuses made by their predecessors. If this resolution includes, as it appears to do, the Orders-in-Council which had not been ratified by the Legislature, the railway company may be relied on to complain that it has done work and expended money on the faith of these orders. That faith will resolve itself into a case of misplaced confidence. The expectation of the company was of course that the Government which passed the Orders-in-Council would win in the elections. All depended upon this, and as it did not happen, confidence in success proved a broken reed. The Orders-in-Council not being ratified by the Legislature, confidence in them was purely speculative. The faith of the Legislature was in no way pledged to ratification; it was pledged as the principal issue in the election to refuse future railway bonuses. But if there has been a question of good faith, ratification could not be refused without dishonor. If the old Legislature had ratified the Orders-in-Council, their repudiation by the new would have been out of the question. They were kept back for fear of the effect on the electorate, only as the event proved not to get that ratification which the old Government dare not ask, in face of the elections, and which the new Legislature, by the terms of the popular mandate, is pre-engaged to refuse.

Some dismissals of subordinate officials for patent partizanship in the elections, have been made by the new Government of Manitoba. The rule is perfectly plain and ought to be well understood, that the duty of subordinate officials is to observe strict neutrality in elections. The practice does not always square with the theory. Many of these officials do, as a matter of fact, spend much energy in a party's cause. This mis-spent energy generally, but not always, is on the side of the Government. How far it is voluntary, and how far suborned, is a nice question. It may be that in this Dominion there are governments who expect their subordinate officers to interfere in their favor in elections; and when this happens, if it does happen, the unfortunate officials are placed between two fires, by either of which they may be singed. That flagrant cases of this kind should be dealt with, for example's sake, is inevitable. The difficulty is, owing to the greatness of the temptation, to avoid approaching the matter in a temper the reverse of judicial, and to refrain from seeking or accepting excuses for vacating positions which are coveted by

numerous candidates, who would be none too scrupulous in getting up evidence. Another story comes from the same province, that the Dominion Government, making common cause with the party which lost in the late elections, is to find reasons for dismissing certain of its officers, by way of retaliation, and that some dismissals have actually taken place. Can this be true?

KOOTENAY MINES.

Mining in the Kootenay cannot be said to be experiencing the wave of prosperity that pervades the rest of the business world. The eight-hour law labor troubles that flattened the industry in the Slocan have spread to other districts and combined with other causes to practically stop work on most of the great shipping properties. Following the closing down of the War Eagle and Centre Star, the Le Roi, the largest producer of the Rossland district, has stopped shipping; the Hall mines near Nelson have discharged all hands, and the Payne mines are practically at a standstill, while in the Boundary Creek country the "B.C." mine, one of the largest properties, has closed down. That there is anxiety almost amounting to dismay in business circles in the Kootenay towns goes without saying, and that rumors of further closing down of mines should be rife is only natural. However, it is not unlikely that an agreement between miners and owners will be reached on a basis of \$3.25 per eight-hour day for hand drillers, and \$3 per day for car men and muckers. Should this be accomplished from 1,500 to 2,000 men will be put at work in the Slocan where 400 men are now employed, and an improvement all round may be expected. If present conditions continue the smelters at Trail and Northport will close as soon as their present supplies of ore are exhausted.

PROGRESS IN IRON MINING IN CANADA.

We have made reference already to the remarkable growth of the American iron industry, as a result of the development of the Lake Superior mines. The wonderful mineral wealth of iron and copper, that lies in that northern peninsula of Michigan, and in Minnesota and Wisconsin, has been a source of vast industrial activity all over the Northern States. And it has been brought into use within forty years. Canada has ascertained wealth of the same kind in the same locality, but she lags behind in development of it. All well-wishers of Canada will hope for the adequate exploiting, soon, of her stores of iron ore in far West Ontario. The Rainy River Railway, of which some 50 miles is completed, will, before twelve months are over, probably tap the ore bodies in Canada, which constitute a continuation of the Mesabi and Vermillion ranges of northern Minnesota.

It is at any rate satisfactory to learn that the diamond drill of the Ontario Government is at work exploring the Mattawin iron deposit, which consists mainly of red hematite, and is near Lake Shebandowan, forty miles from Port Arthur. Definite and welcome news also reaches us of the operations of the Messrs. Clergue, of Sault Ste. Marie, on the Michipicoton iron range. Their location is on Boyer Lake, about twelve miles from Lake Superior, on the north-east shore; the ore a brown hematite. This deposit has been explored over