

that he thinks best to make a mine of this interesting prospect at the earliest possible date.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

The amounts and sources of the gold bullion received at the Dominion of Canada Assay Office, Vancouver, during the calendar year 1912 were as follows: From British Columbia, 50,198 troy ounces, net value, \$831,803; Yukon Territory, 2,212 ounces, value, \$36,481; Alaska, 6,659 ounces, value, \$105,793; total, 59,069 ounces, net value, \$974,077. For the calendar year 1911, the figures were: From British Columbia, 32,176 troy ounces, net value, \$525,747; Yukon Territory, 2,074 ounces, value \$34,994; Alaska, 5,535 ounces, value \$86,675; total, 39,785 ounces, net value, \$647,416.

It is expected that in future there will be much more gold bullion received at the above mentioned Dominion Assay Office, for the reason that the Federal Government quite recently authorized the abolition of a charge heretofore made of one-eighth of one per cent. on the gross value of deposits, which charge was in excess of the cost of having gold melted at the Mint at Ottawa or the United States Mint at San Francisco, California. Mr. G. Middleton, manager of the Dominion Assay Office at Vancouver, in his official report for 1911 to the Director of Mines, Ottawa, made full representations concerning the unfavourable effects of this charge. He wrote, in part: "The United States Government has recognized the above mentioned principle" (namely, that where the gold is sold there also is purchased a large part of the supplies for the mining districts from which that gold comes), "and has established assay offices and mints in the gold-producing states, so that the gold can be marketed in the region where it is obtained, and unless the same course is followed in Canada the greater part of the output of our gold mines will continue to be marketed in a foreign country. The State of Washington is not a gold-producing state, but when gold was discovered in Yukon Territory the United States Government, recognizing what it meant in trade, established an assay office at Seattle, for the purchase of gold. That city, consequently, secured the trade that accompanied the marketing of the gold; it being a recognized fact that it was the trade accompanying the marketing of the output of the Yukon gold mines that built up Seattle. The charges imposed at our Vancouver office are now the same as those in force at the Seattle Assay Office, but the charges at the Ottawa and San Francisco Mints are one-eighth of one per cent. on the gross value of the bullion deposited less at these latter offices than at this office. The result is that the Yukon gold is marketed at the two latter mentioned institutions, the transportation charges on gold bullion from Dawson to Ottawa or San Francisco by registered mail being the same as to Vancouver." In submitting to the Dominion Minister of Mines the memorandum of the manager of the Vancouver Assay Office, the Director of Mines (Dr. Eugene Haanel) wrote: "This memorandum deals also with the utility of the Assay Office, and the desirability of shipping the gold purchased at the same to the Mint at Ottawa instead of selling it, as has been our practice, to the United States Assay Office at Seattle or the Mint at San Francisco. In view of the facts presented by the manager, and those ascertained by myself and reported in my 'Summer Report' for 1910, page 20, I strongly recommend that, as regards charges, the Assay Office at Vancouver be placed in the same position for the purchase of gold as the United States Mint and the Mint at Ottawa, by

abolishing the one-eighth of one per cent. on the gross value of the deposit. This charge was adopted to defray, in part, the expenses and maintenance of the Assay Office. I further recommend that gold hereafter purchased at our Assay Office, Vancouver, B.C., be sent to our own Mint at Ottawa, and that advantage be taken of the present system of shipping the gold from Vancouver to Ottawa by registered mail."

Having after an unreasonably long delay obtained a concession that should have been made several years ago, it will now be well for the Vancouver Board of Trade and others interested in the commercial interests of that city to press for the abolition of the discrimination against Cariboo district, to which the Post Office Department has persistently denied a similar privilege of sending gold by registered mail. It is an astonishing fact that the Department permits gold to be sent by registered mail from Dawson, Yukon, but has all along refused a like advantage to Cariboo. There should be a determined effort made to ascertain whether or not there is sufficient reason for the continued withholding of this privilege from a part of British Columbia situated much nearer to Vancouver than Yukon Territory, and whether it be the stubbornness of officials or the financial interests of the Express Company, the "nigger" should be smoked out of "the woodpile," and the Cariboo miners be placed on an equal footing with those of Yukon Territory.

### Misleading Press Notices.

Provincial newspapers have lately published a press despatch from Nelson under the caption "Nelson Leads Mineral Exports to United States." While it is characteristic of a correspondent or of correspondents sending information out from Nelson to make it appear that Nelson district is especially important as regards its mining, it is well that the public be told the simple truth. Now it happens that a United States consular agent has his office in Nelson and, it would seem, to suit its own convenience the United States Department with which he is connected styles the district under his official jurisdiction the "Nelson United States Consular District." This simple accident gives the Nelson correspondent or correspondents an excuse for greatly exaggerating the value of the exports of what is officially known in British Columbia as the Nelson district. An examination of the figures relating to mineral exports and an enquiry as to the sources of production will at once show the hollowness of the claim that "Nelson Leads," etc. These figures include the following: For blister copper, \$7,048,966; copper matte, \$2,636,794; gold concentrates, \$620,038; silver bullion, \$427,987; zinc concentrates and zinc ore, \$237,434; gold bullion, \$134,738; coal, \$3,746; and comparatively small sums for non-mineral exports. Now this gives a total of nearly \$11,110,000 out of the \$11,186,776 claimed for Nelson district. The total annual value of the mineral production of Nelson mining division during ten years, 1902-1911 (1912 official figures are not yet available) varied from a minimum of \$462,836 in 1908 to a maximum of \$876,002 in 1910. Even allowing a value of \$1,000,000 for 1912, there remains about \$10,000,000 of the value of minerals that is not fairly to the credit of Nelson district, as that district is commonly known to the public at large. Silver and zinc from Ainsworth and Slocan divisions; all the gold, silver, and copper from Rossland mines; all the gold, silver, and copper from the big mines of Boundary district—much of which was probably at no time any where near even the farthest boundary of Nelson mining division; all these, which together reach a total value about ten