

ZINC RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Dr. Eugene Haanel, Superintendent of Mines, Ottawa, kindly sends us the following information in respect to the recently appointed Commission to investigate and report on the zinc resources of British Columbia:—

"I beg to inform you that Mr. Walter Renton Ingalls, the eminent zinc expert, has been appointed chief of the investigation; the field work has been placed in charge of Mr. Philip Argall, M.E., of Denver, Colorado, with Mr. A. C. Garde, M.E., of Nelson, as his assistant. The concentration experiments, according to modern methods, will be conducted at Denver, Colorado, by Mr. Wood. The examination will begin on the 1st of September, and start from Nelson, B.C. The following are the chief points to be covered by the investigation:—

- "1st. Examination of the present development of the mines to determine approximately the tonnage of zinc ore immediately available, its occurrence and character and the future prospects, together with the cost of mining.
- "2nd. Examination of the present methods of mining.
- "3rd. Investigation of the adaptability of the ores to the new methods of concentration (magnetic, electrostatic, etc.).
- "4th. Study of the conditions affecting the marketing of the concentrate, including the question of smelting in the province or elsewhere in Canada.
- "5th. Investigation of the possibility of special utilization of the zinc ore of high silver content.

"I presume you are acquainted with Mr. Garde, who is specially fitted to act as local mining engineer for the following reasons:—

- "1st. Mining Engineer of Zurich School of Mines.
- "2nd. Former manager of the Payne mine.
- "3rd. Favourably known to and approved by Mr. W. R. Ingalls.
- "4th. Endorsed as best man for Zinc Investigation by Provincial Mineralogist, Mr. Robertson.
- "5th. Author of a paper on Zinc Resources of British Columbia, read before the Canadian Mining Institute.
- "6th. First to draw public attention to zinc ore deposits in British Columbia by the publication of comprehensive statement of locations and occurrences. Nelson Daily News regards him as best informed authority on zinc ore deposits.

"The investigation will be extensive and comprehensive. Mr. W. R. Ingalls will visit the zinc districts to obtain such personal view as will enable him to arrive at proper conclusions affecting the development of the zinc industry of British Columbia. In his report he will deal with the economic features of the enquiry and furnish an analysis and summary of the data collected under his direction by his assistants in the field and in the concentration laboratory."

AMERICAN ZINC DUTIES.

In reviewing the zinc situation the Mining Reporter of Denver, Colorado, says:

The past sixty days has witnessed a decided stir in zinc circles. Those interested in the mining and smelting of zinc, have arrayed themselves on opposing sides, and the present indications are that the contentions of both sides will be well supported in a fierce legal battle. It appears that owing to the conflicting sections of the Dingley tariff act, the United States treasury department has been undecided regarding the proper duty to collect on zinc bearing ores imported from Canada. At the time of the framing of the act zinc ores were not as important a factor as at the present time, and owing to the failure to

revise the tariff to meet the exigencies that now arise, zinc ores have been imported at only a nominal duty based on the small amount of lead contained. The attention of the secretary of the treasury was first called to the existing conditions by the Joplin Commercial Club. On its representations the secretary immediately levied a 20 per cent. duty upon British Columbia ores, instead of 1 1-2 cents per lb. on the lead contained, which is the rate of duty that has been in effect for some years. The ruling naturally stirred up the smelter men who have been importing British Columbia zinc, and they have arrayed themselves against the mining interests and the secretary of the treasury and propose to fight for a restoration of the original duty.

Following the decision of the secretary of the treasury, the price of zinc ores rose approximately \$3 per ton. It is hardly probable that this increase was brought about directly by the secretary's ruling, inasmuch as zinc has been commanding an increased price for almost a year and unless speculation has been occasioned by the ruling, the most probable cause for the rise in the price of zinc ores would be an increase in the value of spelter.

Should the mine operators be successful in the suit which they propose bringing to force the levy of a 20 per cent. duty it is undoubtedly true that Canadian zinc will be excluded from the market. This would inflict a heavy blow on a young and promising Canadian industry, but judging from the effects of the analogous circumstances, which appertained to the development of the lead mining industry in British Columbia, the outcome of the present agitation may result in the establishment in Canada of plants for the treatment and manufacture of zinc.

AN IMPORTANT MINING DECISION.

In our last number (p. 27) we referred to an argument in a very important mining case before the Hon. Frank Cechrane, Minister of Lands and Mines for the Province of Ontario. The dispute was between Mr. Dick, representing the Edison Company, and Mr. A. H. Beath, of Sudbury, and involved the ownership of a large area of mining lands. On behalf of Mr. Beath it was claimed that the applications of the Edison Company not having been followed up by compliance with the provisions of the Mines Act, were in the nature of applications and should not be countenanced. On behalf of the Edison Company, it was claimed that as no notice of forfeiture requiring them to comply with the Act had been sent, that the applications should be treated as valid, and being the first application should be granted notwithstanding that the Act was not strictly complied with. It was also contended that Mr. Beath could not comply with the provisions of the Mines Act requiring an affidavit of discovery, inasmuch as to his knowledge mineral had been previously discovered on the property on behalf of the Edison Company.

This decision will form an important precedent, and may be taken as a notice to all concerned that the provisions of the Mines Act will hereafter be more strictly carried out.

The Edison Company were represented on the argument by the Hon. S. H. Blake, K.C., and Mr. Macdonald—Mr. A. H. Beath, in whose favour the decision was rendered, by Mr. J. M. Clark, K.C.

CANADIAN MINERALS AT LIEGE.

Our special correspondent at the Liege Exposition writes:—"Although I have nothing special to report this month, visitors to the Canadian Pavilion are still numerous, and the mineral exhibit continues to attract much attention. This week (August 18th) our exhibit of minerals was visited by the Exposition Jury, and the display received the highest award, the 'Grand Prix.'

"The Congress of Mines and Metallurgy proved very successful, and next month there will be a Congress of Geology, and the first Congress of Radiology."