

In the Transvaal, South Africa, the committee of Rand consulting engineers, to whom the subject of the standardisation of mining machinery was referred, has appointed various sub-committees to consider the different classes of machinery and plant which can with advantage be standardised. In this direction it is believed many economies can be effected. Both the local government and chamber of mines are interesting themselves in the subject.

The unique gold-saving machine, invented and patented in New Zealand, described and illustrated in this month's *MINING RECORD*, will, doubtless, interest many of our readers either resident in one or other of the placer gold regions of the province, or in any way concerned in the recovery of alluvial gold. It is always well to know what other people are doing, particularly those possessed of originality that enables them to find success in a departure from ordinary methods.

Advices received from Midway, in the Boundary district, are in effect that three sites suitable for the erection and operation of smelting works, immediately contiguous to that town, are under option to representatives of well known mining and smelting companies. It is stated that one of the officials of the British Columbia Copper Co. is now in Montreal with the object of making an arrangement with the Midway Co., which has its head office there. This statement has not been confirmed by any one connected with the B. C. Copper Co., yet it is known that it is quite likely to prove correct.

It is stated that the long-standing litigation between the War Eagle and Centre Star mining companies, as plaintiffs, and the Rossland Miners' Union and Western Federation of Miners, as defendants, has been amicably settled, the plaintiffs agreeing to forego their right to enforce their claims for damages and costs, \$30,000 given in their favour by the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and accepting \$1,000 in full of all claims. While the action of the defendants in compelling the plaintiffs' employees to join in a sympathetic strike, thereby closing down the latter's mines and occasioning much loss, was illegal and the penalty it brought was justly inflicted, the magnanimity now displayed by the management of the plaintiff companies should have the effect of promoting harmony between employers and employed, to their eventual mutual benefit.

From Nelson comes information to the effect that it is the intention of the Flathead Valley Oil Lands Development Company, a British Columbian organization with which Victorian and Nelson people are prominently associated, will next month commence drilling for oil on its property in the Flathead section of South-east Kootenay. It is stated the company is making provision for a preliminary expenditure of about \$20,000, this to include the purchase, transportation and installation of the requisite drilling plant, and the sinking of three wells. It is expected that

oil will be met with at between 1,100 and 1,500 ft. depth.

A press despatch from Greenwood, in the Boundary district, gives Mr. H. T. Pemberton, manager of the Montreal & Boston Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, as authority for the announcement that it has been definitely decided to double the capacity of the company's smelter at Boundary Falls, by the erection of two more blast furnaces, thus bringing the treatment capacity of the works up to between 1,200 and 1,500 tons per diem; also to put in a converter plant, large enough to convert into blister copper all the matte made at these works. The more extensive equipment and development of the company's Rawhide mine is also to be undertaken.

Several American capitalists interested in the Britannia mines, at Howe sound, lately paid a visit to that property and to the smelter at Crofton, Vancouver Island. This visit has since been stated to have resulted in the smelting company obtaining a contract for the treatment of all the Britannia ore. One important effect of this will probably be the continuous operation of the Crofton smelter from June 1, next, which will benefit the commercial interests of our coast cities. The installation of an aerial tramway, concentrator, and other equipment for the Britannia mines is well forward, so that it is probable all will be in readiness for the shipment of ore on a comparatively large scale late in the spring or early in the ensuing summer.

The basis on which *The Northern Mines, Ltd.*, was organized in Vancouver last month and incorporated calls for commendation. The authorized capital is limited to \$50,000 and there are no promoters' or vendors' profits to be paid, or preferential shares allotted. Half the capital stock is being offered for subscription, the remainder being held for the benefit of the company in the event of its sale later being found advisable. Modern methods are to be adopted in working ground, on Spruce creek, Atlin, that has been proved by individual miners with only limited appliances to be workable at a profit. Some particulars of this promising venture are printed elsewhere in this number of the *MINING RECORD*.

The Hon. R. J. Seddon, Premier of New Zealand, has made an important announcement with regard to the new goldfields policy of the government. It appears that the services of a Canadian geologist have been secured with the object of conducting geological surveys in the mining districts. It will be the duty of this official to also indicate where shafts or tunnels should be sunk or driven in mineral ranges. It is impossible for local companies or individuals to spend the necessary money in prospecting work, and so the New Zealand government, taking a leaf out of the book of the West Australian government, will carry out this work. Mr. Seddon himself is of opinion that the results will justify the expenditure. What a sur-