

surprise that our usually well-informed contemporary should in this instance be so far astray in its facts. The American tariff has never directly restricted or adversely affected lead mining in British Columbia, but for the closing of the American market on the British Columbian producer some three years ago, the American Smelting Trust was entirely responsible. Since that time the product of our lead mines has been sold in the world's market, on London prices, less, of course,—and herein has been the drawback—large deductions for commission, freight and other charges. There is no question meanwhile but that the aid recently afforded the industry by the Federal Government will have the effect anticipated, for already nearly all the large lead mines in Kootenay have either resumed operations or are preparing to do so. As to the eight-hour law, even discussion on this issue has long since ceased, and it may be safely asserted that the present relations between capital and labour employed in our mining industry is more satisfactory than it has been for many years past.

The mining districts of the Kootenay have lately been receiving the particular attention of an enterprising young man who appears to have come to the conclusion that there are in that part of British Columbia numbers of fish of the genus "sucker" waiting to be caught, and that he is in possession of the right kind of bait to ensure his making a large catch. He must be very unsophisticated, though, or his methods would not be so coarse as they are; or possibly he is saturated with a kind of ignorant assumption characteristic of a certain class of persons from the United States who have the impudence to take it for granted that people resident in this Province can easily be "worked." His modesty and veracity are evidenced by his advertising that the Chicago publication he claims to represent—by the way, he omits to mention that it is a Chicago publication—is "The only paper giving attention to British Columbia in the United States"; that it is "The best and most readable journal in the world," and that a special article in it "is copied into 1,000 other journals and is read by over 5,000,000 persons." That this is the veriest clap-trap goes without saying, and if it be asked why Provincial newspapers publish it the reply is that their advertising columns are open to those who will pay for the use of them. But it is rather to the valuable services this genius is prepared to render that attention is here directed. Let his own offers speak for themselves, and here they are: "I will disseminate exact information regarding mining ventures, pro-

tecting the outside investor from having unpayable properties foisted upon him by unprincipled promoters." And again: "Advice on British Columbia stocks given free. Good prospects written up. Terms from \$500." It is interesting to speculate as to which will be given most consideration, the outside investor asking for exact information regarding mining ventures and free advice on mining stocks, or the man with the "good prospect" and \$500 or more to spare to make it appear good. Anyway, don't forget the \$500 if you are a prospective seller, but if you are an outside investor—well, who is likely to give you something for nothing? Certainly not a Chicago paper's agent.

The fact that an arrangement has been made for the treatment at the British Columbia Copper Company's smelter at Greenwood of the whole of the output of shipping ore from the Le Roi No. 2 Company's mines at Rossland is a matter worthy of more than passing notice, since it suggests that the several well-equipped and thoroughly modern smelting works established in the Boundary District of this Province need not necessarily restrict their operations to the reduction of ores produced in near-by mining camps. Heretofore, whilst practically the whole of the output of Rossland mines has been sent to the Trail and Northport smelters, no great surprise would have been felt at the shipment of ores that would stand the longer haul to United States smelters situate a greater distance from the mines than are those in the Boundary. But that Boundary smelters should treat Rossland ores did not seem probable, notwithstanding that the nearest smelter in that district, that at Grand Forks, is less than 100 miles by rail from Rossland, and the farthest, that at Boundary Falls, only about 130 miles. However, what was either not thought of at all or regarded as improbable has come about, and now Rossland ore is being treated at Greenwood—not a very large proportion of it, yet sufficient to prove whether or not Boundary smelters may in the future be regarded as probable competitors for Rossland custom ores. No particulars have been made public as to the terms of the contract recently entered into between the two above-mentioned companies, but this much is definitely known—that the Le Roi No. 2 Company gets terms that will leave it a larger margin of profit than it derived under its previous smelting arrangements, and the B. C. Copper Company, while it obtains ore having constituents so proportionate in iron, silica and sulphur as to make it a very desirable ore to mix with that from its own Mother Lode mine, receives a re-