

LEAD SMELTING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

David W. King, editor of the *Kaslo Kootenian*, has issued a circular letter with a view to suggest a means that will, in his opinion, enable the silver-lead ores of the Slokan to be smelted in British Columbia. Mr. King says:

"The lead mining and smelting industry of Canada, which at this time is centered in British Columbia, is battling against tremendous odds by reason of being forced into the United States market with its product, ore and bullion—a market hostile because of a high protective tariff. This tariff, which is designed by the United States to foster and build up the mining and smelting industry of that country, is, to the Canadian miner who ships his ore direct, burdensome in the extreme, as he must perforce seek that market, and absolutely prohibitive when applied to the bullion product of such ores, smelted in Canada. There is a discrimination in the duty between lead in ore and lead in bullion, the object being to force the smelting of foreign ores in that country. It is absolutely impossible, because of this tariff discrimination between lead in ore and lead in bullion, to carry on at a profit the industry of mining and smelting Canada's lower-grade ores, or the smelting of ores of any grade, inasmuch as under present conditions our lead must go to the United States markets. It is a fact that the lead miners of the United States are, under a protective tariff on lead, successfully and profitably operating mines that range in grade from 15 to 30 per cent. lower than those which in British Columbia, under present conditions, we cannot think of operating. Kootenay has the highest grade lead mines in the world, yet the lead product of her highest grade ores, because of being forced into a hostile market, fall short of paying the freight, treatment and duty charges. And were it not for the association of silver with the lead they could not be worked at all. The reason we are forced into that market lies in the utter absence of an available home market. The home market is not available because of a low Canadian import duty on lead and lead products, which admits foreign leads and foreign lead manufactures comparatively free. The United States tariff on lead in bullion, pig and the principal lead products, is, averaged, four times greater than that of Canada. Canada draws her lead supply principally from the United States and Mexico, and she will never consume the product of her own lead mines until she has placed her lead miners and her lead smelters on an equal footing with those of the United States; until she has, by a similar tariff act, shut out the cheap leads of Mexico and placed herself beyond the control and influence of the United States lead trust. The lead miners of the United States are enjoying great prosperity today because they are protected by their tariff. Canada then need only take the United States as an example."

Going further into details, Mr. King says that the bonus of 50 cents a ton offered by the Dominion government is ineffective, as it does not offset the duty on lead in bullion. An export duty is not to be thought of, consequently the only solution lies in a heavy import duty on lead. He states that 25,000 tons of bar, sheet, white lead and lead manufactures are imported yearly, and that the exports were approximately 18,000 tons, or 7,000 tons short of the demand. Should the production increase, the consumption in the manufactures would grow with it. He believes that the time has come for Canada to cut loose from the United States. Mr. King invites discussion of the subject, and invites those interested to mail to him their suggestions for use in the campaign which is about to be opened in the interest of the lead mining and smelting industry of Canada.

A BIG LIQUOR CARGO.

The steamer *Manauense*, now en route to Vancouver from Liverpool on her way to the Yukon, will unload at the Terminal City an enormous shipment of liquors and bar appliances, and contribute a large sum in customs duties to the Dominion exchequer. The ship's cargo includes 14,000 cases of spirits, 1,000 barrels of spirits, 3,000 cases of beer, 70 tons of salt, 300 tons of plate-glass, etc. The liquor is mostly whisky, as indicated, but in addition to the liquor there is a large consignment of plate-glass and crockery, which will be used in fitting up bars and shanty hotels, and are evidently intended largely for Yukon use. The ship is, in fact, a floating emporium for the liquor trade. The competition between various firms to get their goods on board was so great that if the ship had double her capacity, and could have waited, she would have got cargo enough to fill it.

The vessel will also bring out twenty-one first-class passengers to Dawson, and steam launches for use on the Yukon river, which the big steamship of course cannot navigate. The *Manauense* will, on her arrival at Vancouver, take aboard 110 steerage passengers to the Yukon, and doubtless, if permits can be got, carry north much of her big liquor cargo.

A DREAM OF THE KLONDIKE SPECULATOR.

My name is Aleck Smarty. I am going to make a party of men both hale and healthy, for the Klondike's golden strand. Every man must be self-feeder, but I will be the leader (I need hardly tell the reader) and the boss of all the band. I think the first manuver in this great treasure-trove is to strike for old Vancouver, thence to Teslin on the plain; there we'll board our little galley and we'll sail continually till we reach the Yukon valley, when the robins nest again. Then my men will go prospecting, and, a proper place selecting, they will finish soon erecting our modest little shack; then in gold before our hovel we will "waller" and we'll grovel, and we'll dig it with a shovel and we'll put it in a sack. Then I'll pay each man in reason for his labor of the season, and before it starts to freeze on the Yukon's rocky shore. When the wintry blizzard hollers, I will pack my shirts and collars, and with fifty million dollars, I will strike for home once more. Then to London and to Paris all my dough I'll gally carry, and a princess I will marry—one most beautiful to view—everywhere I'll have an entree; I will patronize the gentry; I will buy the blooming kentry and the people in it, too!—Ottawa Journal.

A MINING MINISTER.

The venerable Archdeacon McKay, who has for a time abandoned a British Columbia pulpit at Donald for mining in the Klondike, declares in a letter recently sent home, that he has obtained some good Yukon prospects and hopes to do very well. He, however, warns all intending gold-seekers that the inevitable hardships of Yukon life are terrible and can scarce be exaggerated.