

both fall to some extent upon the mines, which are large consumers of both timber and fuel. It is inevitable that mining should pay the expenses of administering this province, because mining is the only industry which makes it worth while administering this country as a province at all. The whole fiscal system of British Columbia must be based on mining. Its future prosperity must be derived from mining. Its status as a province must be preserved by mining. Therefore we must have taxation which will not cripple and legislation which will foster the mining industry. Liberal laws, wise expenditure and fair taxation are the main requirements of the mining industry. Nor is the increased taxation of this year in any way opposed to these requirements when the large sums spent in the development of new districts are considered. It will be time enough to cry out when the mining industry is being milked for purposes alien to its own development. The tax upon the output of coal is in every respect a good one. The coal resources of British Columbia are practically limitless. Every year a larger and larger production will be maintained and every year a larger and larger revenue result from the imposition of this tax. In both the taxes imposed the government has shown wisdom and common sense. The contention that the inflow of capital into the province will be restricted is unsound. It is true that if the taxation of a country is so great as to put serious burdens upon capital that capitalists will take those burdens into consideration before investing in the country. But \$90,000 spread over the mining industry of the province is a negligible quantity when the returns hoped for from mining investments are the returns actually being reaped from those mines called upon to pay the tax, are kept in mind.

Another curious incident has been added to the history of mining in British Columbia in the closing down of the Wakefield mine and the particulars in connection with it revealed at a special meeting of the company held in Glasgow on the 9th of July. The mine was originally purchased for a Scotch syndicate by David Bremner and development was carried on under his management for some time. It possessed characteristics in common with many other Slocan properties. There were fairly good bunches of high-grade ore occurring in sufficient numbers to make economical development and shipments highly profitable and had the mine been worked in this limited way the chances are that its purchasers would now have nothing to regret. But after Bremner severed his connection with the syndicate a new and ruinous policy was adopted due to the ignorance of the directorate and their misplaced confidence in the mining engineer, Mr. E. A. Paterson, who was in charge. Mr. Paterson's statements in reference to the property were so extravagant and his calculations so magnificent that either the Wakefield was the greatest silver lead mine in the world or else he himself was wholly unreliable. It has turned out that he was wholly unreliable. His method was extremely simple. He took the cubic contents of the vein and called it ore. He thereupon calculated a great tonnage in sight and led the directors of the company like sheep to the slaughter, upon a policy of mill and tramway building which the mine had never been and would never be able to afford. Such a method of calculating ore in sight would be reckless and vicious in reference to

any mining property, but applied to a Slocan mine was nothing short of insanity. The outcome has been disastrous and of course British Columbia will get part of the blame. This is both very unjust and much to be regretted but inevitable. The canny Scot has lost his money and one cannot expect him to realize the fact that no one is to blame except himself. This is the more to be regretted as the shareholders in the Wakefield are men of good standing and reputation in Glasgow where an ill word spoken against British Columbia will close the Glasgow market to British Columbia properties for some time to come. For our part, we would rather trust our money to the greatest rogue unhung with some mining experience than to the culpably honest and ignorant management of the Wakefield mine. The rogue will at least display some prudence and is not likely to ruin his own credit for an inadequate compensation, a variety of simplicity peculiarly reserved to the fool. However, British Columbia can stand the blame. Mining is fortunately in such a position now that when people who lose their money in foolish speculation blame the resources of the country, those who know the resources of the country can afford to laugh at them. There are certainly elements of humor in the story of the Wakefield mine. Consider if you will the effect upon a canny and reputable board of directors of the following telegram: "Regret to inform you that mine does not look well for the present and not likely to improve. Grade of ore at various points of development is not maintained. Is petering out rapidly," which came upon them like a thunderbolt just when they were starting out on a full voyage of prosperity—in their minds. Their reply sustains the humor of the situation: "Directors very much disgusted. Are we to consider your past reports unreliable and calculations valueless."

Still funnier is the report of Mr. T. Trafford Wynne, who had charge of the mine during Mr. Paterson's absence, in which he says that the mine is probably much as it has been all along. But the climax is reached in the suggestion of the chairman that Mr. Paterson's telegram was due to the state of his health. We humbly submit that there are sub-oceanic depths of humor in the idea that a mining engineer was so run down in health as to blurt out—the truth.

There are two main factors which will affect the copper-gold industry during the coming autumn and winter. These are the final testing by actual smelter receipts of the great ore bodies of the Knob Hill and Ironsides at Phoenix and the resumption of shipments by the War Eagle and Centre Star at Rossland. The Canadian public having given way to a wild burst of enthusiasm in reference to the Boundary country in general and the Knob Hill and Ironsides in particular, which grew out of the great boom in Rossland mines, notably the War Eagle and Centre Star, is now undergoing an alternating fit of cold depression. The man who a year ago believed that the War Eagle was a veritable bonanza, that the Centre Star was another name for inexhaustible riches, and the Knob Hill and Ironsides were greater than the Le Roi, War Eagle and Centre Star put together, has now the gravest doubts about the permanence, stability or wealth producing characteristics of any one of them. It is needless to say that his opinion does not affect the status of any one of the properties in the slightest degree; but it does affect the liberality with which he opens