

Marysville were not affected to so great an extent as the big copper smelters. As to Trail well Trail at first wanted arbitration and everything else that would aid in confounding those it regards as its enemies and who need not be named here.

Seeing, then, that a majority of those immediately concerned is not in favour of the Government going farther in the direction hastily demanded by certain organizations that were mistaken as to the requirements of the situation, it is hoped that this arbitration movement will be abandoned as unnecessary and futile.

THE VICTORIA EXHIBITION AND THE MINING INDUSTRY.

ON JULY 17 the manager of the *MINING RECORD* made enquiry, by letter, of the secretary-treasurer of the Provincial Exhibition, arranged to be held at Victoria at the end of September under the auspices of the B. C. Agricultural Association, as follows: "Is it intended to have a rock-drilling contest this year? If so, kindly let me know particulars, so that I may call attention to it in our next issue, 'copy' for which will be prepared within a fortnight. Or if nothing has yet been done in that direction, I shall have pleasure in inviting the attention of those interested with a view to their subscribing money for prizes for rock drilling." No reply was received to this communication. We have purposely deferred calling attention to the lack of ordinary courtesy thus experienced until after the exhibition had been held. Throughout some of the mining sections of the interior it has for years been generally accepted that the City of Victoria's interest in the mining industry, at any rate of the Kootenay and Boundary districts, was largely restricted to considerations of how much of their business it could secure. In view of the frequent claims we have seen made in Victoria daily newspapers to the importance of the mining industry of Vancouver Island and neighbouring parts, we had not looked for such seeming complete indifference to matters in which miners, quarrymen, and others are considerably interested. Further, it would appear as if this seeming indifference extends to everything connected with the mining industry, for notwithstanding that the pretentious name of "Provincial Exhibition" was officially used, an hour's careful search on the part of the editor of the *MINING RECORD* failed to disclose the inclusion in the varied display made of a single exhibit directly representative of the mining industry, the products of which in 1906 showed a value nearly as large as that of lumbering, agriculture and the fisheries of the Province combined. We remember that in 1903 the managers of the big annual exposition held in Spokane, Washington, in some measure slighted the mining interests, whereupon W. G. Gaunce of Greenwood wrote in such keenly sarcastic terms of that city's particular encouragement of dog fanciers' fads, as compared with

its inadequate recognition of mining, that the latter has ever since been accorded marked prominence, while the annual rock-drilling contests at the Spokane Exposition have so grown in popularity and widespread interest as to have become practically international in character. We can hardly think it possible the management of the Victoria exhibition intentionally took such a position as this: "We know mining is increasing in importance on the British Columbia coast, but while we wanted a 'bronco busting' exhibition every day of our show, we had absolutely no use for such a display of strength and skill as is required in a well-contested rock drilling contest. You miners of the Coast and Island districts may go to Seattle and spend your money there, as do the Yukon and Alaska men; we will not encourage you to come here. And as to exhibits of mining products, why, we know little about such things, and care less." We shall, therefore, not attempt to use the keen weapon Mr. Gaunce used with such good effect at Spokane. We do, though, earnestly submit to those concerned that it is not, in our opinion, a wise policy to so completely ignore the interests and pleasures of those connected with the chief industry of this Province, upon which, in the stated opinion of the writer of the Prize Essay printed elsewhere in this issue, "at least one-fifth of the total population of British Columbia is directly dependent." Further, we think it very probable the offering of a few prizes of fair value for rock-drilling and exhibits of minerals, respectively, together with systematic advertising of these as important parts of the exhibition, (excursion fares to and from Victoria are already customary) would in the course of a year or two result in a sufficient number of people being induced to come from the interior mining districts, as well as those of the Coast, as to make it well worth while giving these matters prominence as features of Victoria's annual exhibition.

The Dominion Geological Survey party in charge of D. D. Cairnes, which was engaged during several months of the current year in Yukon Territory, spent the greater part of the season in geologically examining the country along, and lying to the west of, the Lewes River between Whitehorse and Tantalus (the latter being situated about half way between Whitehorse and Dawson), and mapping portions of it. The work accomplished is intended to in some degree show the extent and position of the extensive bituminous coal measures crossing the river at Tantalus and extending in a southwesterly direction therefrom. This geological work was curtailed in order that Mr. Cairnes might collect statistical data, for the mines branch of the department, relative chiefly to the Dawson placers, which latter duty was completed before Mr. Cairnes left the Yukon for Ottawa.