

It is believed that the Queen Charlotte Islands contain much more agricultural land than is known, and that with more complete official knowledge available, many settlers could be induced to take up homesteads there. Upwards of 400 prospectors are reported to have left this season for the islands. They have gone in an unostentatious way but intend, from what can be gathered, prosecuting a vigorous search for metal and suitable farming land during the warm weather. On this account more is expected to be heard of that country in the ensuing fall than has yet been made public."

The *Boston Commercial* recently published the following comments of G. L. Walker on the Dominion Copper Company, with mines and a smelter in the Boundary District: "Dominion Copper interests state that the company expended its treasury surplus of about \$400,000 on mine development, equipment and smelter improvements last year, and that it was a heavy loser when the price of copper declined from 25 to 12½ cents, as it had a large amount of metal in transit and in production which had not yet been sold. The company's increase of production had only fairly begun when the decline in metal prices occurred. The company is said to have about \$60,000 worth of supplies, and \$15,000 cash on hand. It owes about \$27,000, and has \$800,000 of bonds outstanding. Some of the inside interests express a determination to raise the necessary money and pay the bond interest, and also to provide for a resumption of operations at the mines after copper prices advance a little further. They have every confidence in the value of the company's properties." Later reports are to the effect that the bond interest has been paid and preparations are being made to shortly resume operations at the company's several mines and smelting works—probably about the middle of June.

The Geological Survey branch of the Dominion Department of Mines is having the maps that will accompany Mr. R. W. Brock's report on Rossland camp prepared as speedily as is practicable. The field work was completed last October. The topographical sheet of the Rossland special map has already been received from the engraver and many copies distributed. The geology has been laid down on it and the engraver will proceed with the preparation of the colour stones without unnecessary delay. The general topographical sheet of the camp has been completed and sent to the engraver, and after this has been engraved the topography will be laid down on it. As soon as the field parties shall all be out and the Dominion Parliament prorogued, Mr. Brock, who is acting director of the Geological Survey, will be relieved from the heavy pressure of his present duties and in some measure be free to complete his report, so that it may be ready by the time the maps that are to accompany it shall be printed. The foregoing information has been com-

municated to the secretary of the Western branch of the Canadian Mining Institute which, at its recent meeting, held at Rossland, passed a resolution requesting that the report be completed and published as soon as shall be practicable.

The retirement of F. J. Deane from the active management of the *Nelson Daily News*, which newspaper he recently disposed of by sale, is a matter for sincere regret to many interested in the mining and smelting industries of the Kootenay and Boundary Districts. In the obtainment and publication of reliable information relative to these industries in particular, while never neglectful of others or of the maintenance of a good news service, he was, we believe, the most energetic and enterprising newspaper proprietor in British Columbia. No daily newspaper published in the province spent so much money or effort to obtain and publish an annual review of mining, and certainly none during the years the *Daily News* was in Mr. Deane's hands printed anything like the quantity of carefully collected and reliable information regarding mining and smelting in British Columbia. There was no place for "hot air" or similar rubbish purporting to be mining news in the columns of the *Daily News*; on the contrary Mr. Deane and his staff did their utmost to obtain facts only. While we have no reason to suppose the *Daily News* will in the future change its policy in this regard, we feel called upon to acknowledge the great value of Mr. Deane's efforts in the direction above indicated, and to express deep regret that they are, we would fain hope only temporarily, lost to the leading industry of the important districts to which he has been of signal service.

On May 18 the miners employed at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's Michel colliery discontinued work. A despatch published by the *Nelson Daily News* stated that as far as could be ascertained the cause of the trouble was a case of alleged discrimination, the company refusing to give employment to a miner who claimed he had signed on and received his tools, but when he applied for work was refused a place. The officials at the mine denied that he was signed on and claimed they had good and sufficient reasons for declining to engage the man and were perfectly justified in refusing his application. In this contention the management was supported, so it was stated, by the district officials of the United Mine Workers of America, and District President Sherman visited Michel and urged the miners to return to work and keep their agreement with the company. The company on May 20 took action against William Douglas, president of the local union; Charles Garner, secretary, and William Whitehouse, another member of the union, for breaches of Sec. 60 of the "Industrial Disputes Investigation Act," but the local magistrate decided he had no jurisdiction under the act and dismissed the accused. A temporary understanding was arrived at