

plying capitalists with reliable information as to our mineral wealth.

The question of re-staking claims demands immediate attention. Gross abuses of the present Act exist, and many good locations are tied up, which greatly affects any attempt at development.

Reticence of Prospectors.—The best information obtainable on the character of magnetite and hermatite deposits is at present in the possession of private prospectors. Your committee have interviewed a number of these gentlemen, and it would appear that considerable activity is going on at the present time in the interests of wealthy syndicates having in view the immediate establishment of smelters and rolling mills. It is owing to this fact that little can be gleaned from private prospectors. They represent to your committee that being under engagement to the companies referred to they are not at liberty at the present time to give out any information. When this has been presented to their principals, we are led to believe that the league will be placed in possession of information regarding a number of unreported properties.

Impressions.—In pursuing the investigations called for, we have been particularly impressed with the immense distribution which has taken place by nature of the raw materials throughout this Province, and particularly so of the Island of Vancouver. At a period in our history when the various manufacturing interests of the world have been brought to such a perfected state and increasing at a rapid ratio each year, it would appear to us that the time must be necessarily short before world-wide attention is directed this way. From the manufacturing possibilities presented to us by the great wealth lying dormant in forest and sea, from a harnessing of electricity to the water-powers of the West Coast to assist in bringing about a cheaper method of production in man's requirements, much is to be expected. The importance of such factors few appear to realize, and of the future that lies before us how much remains with ourselves in bringing it about in our own time, thus replacing present conditions with those of a happier nature.

Suggestions.—In suggesting to the league methods which we think would prove beneficial and tend toward the immediate development of the iron industry in this Province, your committee have written to the Bureau of Information for the Province of Ontario for all information showing the course pursued by that Government in giving encouragement to iron and steel smelting in that Province. This will be shortly forthcoming, and will be placed before you for consideration and action. We believe the iron and steel trade to be the foundation of all the industries of a country, and there is no reason why, with the advantages possessed by us, full enjoyment should not be taken of the privileges.

To bring forward delay, your committee make the following suggestions:

1. That the Minister of Mines be asked

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to have the various ore bodies reported upon, that accurate knowledge be forthcoming regarding: (a) The locality; (b) Quality of ore; (c) The extent of deposits, and commercial value of the same.

2. The preventing of re-staking of claims, and speedy punishment for false declaration in respect to improvements.

3. That a bill be brought down embodying the following legislation in addition to the mining laws of the province: (a) That a bonus of not less than \$—, nor more than \$—, be offered prospectors for each available body of magnetite or hermatite ores discovered within the Province, the same being approved of by the proper officer as to quality, quantity, and availability for manufacturing purposes; (b) That all such deposits be reserved by the Government in the interests of the owner to the intent that he be aided by the Government in obtaining full money value for his find. This prevents the owner locking up the raw materials of the Province against the industry; (c) That in cases where the owner is unable to prove his find the Government shall (if considered of value) reserve and prove the same, deducting the expenses from the amount of bonus

or royalty thereafter paid; (d) The Government shall place the reserved properties in the hands of responsible parties who will deposit a bond with the Government covering a contract to mine such quantity of ore per year as shall be agreed upon. Smelting, or have the same smelted within the Province. That for each ton of ore mined the discoverer shall be paid a royalty, the amount of which shall be determined according to quality, quantity and the availability of the ore, the Government at all times acting as arbitrator of values. In event of an arrangement being made for the sale or purchase of a deposit outright, the purchaser shall be required to deposit a bond with the Government covering an agreement (under the law of reserve) that the material taken from such mines shall be smelted within the Province.—Mining Record.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has awarded the contract to Lessard & Harris, Montreal, for four of the buildings for the new car and locomotive works, which are to be established at Hochelaga, Que. The amount of the contract is \$235,000.