

That the effective work the Le Roi Mining Co. has been, and is still doing at its mine and smelter has been unfavourably criticised is not surprising when it is remembered that certain influences have been, and are, at work to discredit Mr. A. J. McMillan, the company's managing director and general manager. That gentleman, however, continues to attend to the business of putting the company in a sound financial position and of developing the mine at depth. The reply to the allegation that he is "gutting" the mine is that he is only shipping to the smelter ore that can be mined and treated at a profit. His carping critics complain further because profits that are being applied to development at depth—down to 1,550 ft.—are not available for distribution among the stockholders. They are indeed hard up for proof of Mr. McMillan's alleged unsuitability for the important position he so successfully fills when they misrepresent him in this connection. If there is one thing more than another required to ensure permanence of the mining industry in this province, it is to prove that ore of profitable quality and in payable quantity occurs at considerable depth. This Mr. McMillan and his competent officials are doing, and doing it thoroughly, yet misrepresentation and abuse are indulged in. It is evident that the old fable of the man who was blamed whether he rode or carried the ass still finds application. Mr. McMillan, however, is not giving the faultfinders the satisfaction of answering their complaints. Like a wise man he is reserving the rendering of his account of his stewardship for the next general meeting of Le Roi shareholders, who will judge him by the gratifying results achieved, and not by criticism that is manifestly unfair.

The MINING RECORD has been taken to task by the *Nelson Tribune* for quoting from the Report of the Minister of Mines for 1904 \$12 to \$15 per ton as the average values recovered from about 10,000 tons of ore from the Nickel Plate mine, Similkameen, last year, and told that "assays made by one of the most eminent metallurgists in Canada, his samples being taken from every part of the mine for purposes of valuation," give values ranging from \$80 to \$100. If it be intended to convey the impression that average values of Nickel Plate ore range not less than \$80 per ton, then so much the worse for the "eminent metallurgist." Not only do we think that the provincial mineralogist took pains to verify the average values he gave in the Annual Report, which he could easily have done from sworn returns in the possession of the government, but we have most positive assurance that the general manager of the company owning the Nickel Plate mine, when asked as to the truth of the statement, referred to elsewhere in this issue, "that \$6,000 worth of gold is being recovered every day . . . in addition to concentrates," denied its truthfulness and stated that the average value being recovered from Nickel Plate ore was about \$12 per ton. Further, we must point out that the *Tribune* can not be well informed relative to Similkameen mines, or it would not have made the mistake of asserting that "the only large mine

operating in the Similkameen is the highest grade copper mine in British Columbia, and one of the highest grade on the continent," when the only *producing* mine in the Similkameen at the time that assertion was published was the Nickel Plate, which is not a copper mine at all, its ores being generally arsenical iron, with values chiefly in gold, and no copper.

Last February we drew attention to the gross exaggerations of two Vancouver writers for newspapers. One gave as "the first really definite news" of the output of the Nickel Plate mine, near Hedley, Similkameen, the statement, which he (as we believed, wrongly) attributed to the gold commissioner for the Osoyoos district, "that \$6,000 worth of gold is being recovered every day . . . in addition to concentrates." The other asserted that by May 1 the Iron Mask mine, Kamloops, "will be shipping 500 tons of \$30 ore daily." We return to this subject again to show that we were right in ridiculing these statements. Since the publication of the Report of the Minister of Mines for 1904, it has transpired that Nickel Plate ore, of which 9,000 to 10,000 tons were treated last year, "yielded values of from \$12 to \$15 a ton, chiefly in gold." Taking the higher value, which is an excessive one for the purpose of this comparison, since it includes more than the gold, it would thus have been necessary for the 40-stamp mill at Hedley to have been operated at full capacity and have treated not less than 400 tons per diem. If the purveyor of "the first really definite news" will enquire of any competent stamp mill man he will be told that such a quantity would be three to four times the maximum capacity of the mill, with all its stamps dropping continuously, but as they were not it is evident the exaggeration was the greater. As to the fairy tale about the Iron Mask mine—any one reading the report of the meeting of the Kamloops Mines, Ltd., which we published last month, can quickly decide on the utter unlikelihood of any such production having been suggested by the management of the mine, or any one else with the slightest idea of its reasonable capabilities under existing conditions. Further, the manager has been reported in English newspapers to have last month cabled to London to the following effect: "Three hundred tons of high-grade ore, valued at \$4,500, shipped last week. This week shipped 250 tons, valued \$5,000." That is to say the actual tonnage of ore shipped during two weeks since the date mentioned in the misstatement to which we took exception was 550 tons, of a total value of \$9,500, as compared with the grossly exaggerated forecast of 6,000 tons (allowing twelve working days in two weeks) of a total value of \$180,000. While the MINING RECORD is at all times anxious to give British Columbian mines credit for all they are entitled to, it believes the press owes to the investing public the duty of adhering to facts as closely as practicable. It therefore suggests to the Vancouver romancers that it would be well for them to take to heart two lines occurring in an exchange, recently received: "The public is weary of painted lies—or of any other kind."