sure because they believe that he is a straight man, and they see that he fights his fights fairly and only laughs when you hit him, but we, as men interested only in the great industry of this country, can afford to ignore his politics, forget his military record, overlook his genial goodfellowship and yet rejoice in his appointment to the portfolio of mines, because he is a man of wide political experience ; well known in centres from which the money necessary for our development is most likely to come ; well liked by those in power at Ottawa ; a man with large interests in this Province, NOT centred in Victoria but spread over the whole Province, and above all because he is a professional and practical mining man and "a good business man."

Outside Victoria, where naturally some heat still lingers after the recent contest, it seems to us that most men would condone many offences, if they be offences, of the present government and try to think well even of politicians as a whole, if they would only stop their endless squabbles, give the country rest and let the new Minister of Mines do something to promote the interests of that industry upon which the prosperity of the whole Province depends. If they won't do that we might as well throw up the sponge. It is useless for mining men to develop and advertise the country, if the politicians who produce nothing insist on damming it.

BOUNDARY ORES AND THE PRICE OF COPPER.

OUR Boundary District correspondent, Mr. E. Jacobs, writes us as follows : An article which appeared in the January issue of the *B. C. Mining Exchange and Investors Guide* (which, by the way, did not come under my notice in time for me to call attention to it in your February issue), contains an absurd assumption relative to the value of "our low grade Boundary ores," to which it may be well to take objection as misleading and harmful. The paragraph referred to read thus : "As a matter of business economy, we will take our low grade Boundary ores, treated by the smelters there. Assuming they put through 500 tons per diem of 3 per cent. ore, which would be 15 tons of copper, and supposing by way of illustration, copper to be at ten cents per pound, the gross returns would be $3,000. Deduct say two-thirds for working expenses, refining, etc., or roughly, seven cents per pound, leaves a net margin of $1,000 per diem." Now it is the publication and reiteration of just such rubbish as this that adds to the difficulties of the district mining and smelting companies in their endeavours to secure lower rates for fuel and freight and a remission of the taxes that burden so heavily these low grade mines. Of course "comparisons are odious" in such a case as this, but in contrast to the ignorant vapourings of such mis-named "Guides" as that under notice, let me quote from a recent number of the New York *Engineering and Mining Journal*, which in the course of some editorial comment on this district, said : "The copper ores throughout the district yield on an average about one-third per cent. of copper, and the decline in price of that metal meant at least $1.50 per ton. The margin at best is small and this decline was a serious blow." The difference between the two statements is simply that the former is the utterance of (in this connection) an ignoramus ; the latter of a writer who does know something of the subject he is dealing with. Between the stuff the *Canadian Mining Review* has published relative to values of the Boundary ores and the equally unreliable nonsense in the opposite direction of the *B. C. Mining Exchange*, this district has nothing to choose, since both tend to do it more harm than good.

Is American enterprise to repeat in the Boundary its profitable experiences in the Rossland district, where it opened up the leading mines and afterwards sold them for big prices to British companies ? The Granby Company, certainly, is an eastern Canadian organization, but much of its stock is owned in the States. The British Columbia Copper Company is a New York company, with very little, if any, of its stock held in Canada, the capital for the development of the Mother Lode mine and its equipment with the biggest power plant in the district and for the building and equipment of the smelter at Greenwood having come from New York. The Montreal and Boston Copper Company, which lately purchased the smelter erected near Boundary Falls, has been placing much of its stock in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other United States cities. The Morrison company is controlled in Spokane. Turning to recent sales of undeveloped properties, the Ruby was acquired by capitalists from Detroit, Michigan, and now the Arlington-Burns group has been sold to men from Duluth, Minnesota. True, there are as well several British-owned companies operating in the Boundary, but American owners are by no means the least enterprising and successful in the district.

The Granby Company now has four blast furnaces in running order at its smelter at Grand Forks, and the B. C. Copper Company two at its Greenwood smelter. Allowing a daily average tonnage of 350 tons for each furnace at the first-named smelter and of 400 tons at the latter, this would give a daily treatment capacity of 2,200 tons. But both the averages named are lower than those reached by the furnaces running during recent months, so that, should it be found practicable, as it is expected it will be, to operate all of these furnaces, the total here given above will likely be less than the actual tonnage that will be treated. Then it is claimed that the Montreal and Boston Copper Company's smelter at Boundary Falls will be in operation this month, so that with the addition of say 300 tons more at those works, which figures will also prove to be too low, the Boundary should shortly be reducing at least 2,500 tons of its own ores per diem. This will give a monthly total of 75,000 to 80,000 tons. There is good reason to conclude that this anticipated result will be reached, which means that the output of ore mined