

to be a law unto themselves that in British Columbia they must either obey the properly constituted authorities or take the consequences of their disobedience, as Tanghe has had to do.

The Revelstoke *Herald* recently published a timely editorial advocating the establishment in the Province of Mining Courts to deal summarily with any ordinary mining litigation. It pointed out that such courts exist in most mining countries in the British Empire; that they deal promptly and satisfactorily with most mining disputes; and that they would be a boon in outlying districts like Cariboo, Omineca, Cassiar and Atlin especially, while even in the less remote mining districts the law's delays, so vexatious to litigants, would, so far as mining matters are concerned, be removed. It appears that before British Columbia joined the Dominion a similar system to that now advocated was in force, and that after entering the Confederation the Province attempted to revive the procedure, re-constituting the Mining Courts and giving large judicial powers to Gold Commissioners, provision being made for appeals to higher courts where necessary. In 1900, however, it was held that the Province had exceeded its powers under the British North America Act in thus giving Gold Commissioners judicial powers, the appointment of judges resting with the Dominion only. The *Herald* proposes as a way out of the difficulty that the Governor-General-in-Council be requested by the Provincial Government to make an Order that upon the appointment of a Gold Commissioner in British Columbia he shall, *ipso facto*, become judge of the Mining Court in his district. If an assurance were obtained that upon the recommendation of the Provincial Executive Gold Commissioners would be appointed Mining Court judges the Provincial Legislature would very quickly provide for the establishment of Mining Courts, to be held whenever necessary at the offices of Gold Commissioners throughout the Province. As a rule Gold Commissioners are men who have lived many years in mining districts and are familiar with mining regulations and conditions, consequently in any ordinary dispute they could be relied upon to do justice in matters referred to them for adjudication. At any rate the system works well in other British mining countries, so it should prove equally satisfactory in this Province.

A review of that part of the Summary Report of the Geological Survey Department of Canada for the year 1902 which relates more particularly to British Columbia and other parts of the far western portion of the Dominion, appears elsewhere in this issue of the RECORD. At its close expression is given to the hope that the British Columbia members of the Federal House of Commons will support more liberal appropriations being made to the Survey, so that its useful work may be continued and enlarged, particularly in the West, where the mineral resources of the country are believed to be enormous. The fact that an appro-

priation of \$10,000 has already been made by the Dominion Parliament to provide for the establishment of a Mining Bureau in connection with the Department of the Interior does not lessen the necessity for making adequate monetary provision for continuing the valuable work of the Survey. It is stated that \$5,000 has also been appropriated with the object of providing metallurgical assistance to the Survey, but the contention of Mr. E. D. Ingall, Chief of the Mines Section of the Survey, that with the present rapid growth of our mineral industries a much more vigorous policy is needed to meet even the most pressing needs of those interested in exploiting our mineral resources, is heartily approved in the West, where mining has before it a future big with possibilities which may fairly be described as stupendous, but where there is still a very large area of little-known country, much of it believed to be mineral-bearing, to be examined. With the Survey keeping well in view the present and growing importance of continuing to give attention to practical work, looking to the development of our various mineral resources, and the Mining Bureau collecting and promptly publishing information and statistics relative to the mining industry—and such information to be of the greatest utility must be published promptly, not held over for months, as has been the custom of both the Survey and the Provincial Department of Mines—much benefit will result, both to the country at large and to those directly interested in mining.

The adaptability of the Elmore process of oil concentration to the treatment of certain classes of Rossland ores seems now to be fairly well substantiated, the War Eagle and Centre Star companies having already, in consequence of the successful test runs made by the Le Roi No. 2 concentrator, and doubtless also after obtaining satisfactory proof of the commercial and metallurgical efficiency of the method, ordered a mill of 50 tons daily capacity from the Canadian Ore Concentration Co., while other mines at Rossland are, we are informed, likely ere long to follow suit. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this intelligence, and we think we hardly exaggerate in stating that the successful application of oil concentration in Rossland will prove to be one of the most memorable events in the history of mining in British Columbia. Meanwhile strong representations are to be made to the Dominion Government suggesting the removal of the duty of 5 cents per gallon on mineral oil of the character used in connection with this process, it being advanced that the duty adds materially to the cost of a metallurgical process which promises to prove of great practical benefit to the mining industry of the Province, and therefore to Canada. The Canadian Ore Concentration Company and its licensees would, it is stated, prefer to use an oil of Canadian origin, were such available, but so far the oil employed has had to be imported from the United States and has been subject to an import duty of 5 cents per gallon in addition to a duty on the barrels in