

the free entrance of mining machinery to the Province. With such men as the Hon. John Robson, D. W. Higgins, M.P.P., the Hon. Mr. Beaven, John Grant, M.P.P., and a few others we might name, at Ottawa, how long would such things be permitted. This crying injustice done to the struggling, and nearly choked Miner. Let the people of British Columbia speak in trumpet tones to ye moss-backs at Ottawa. We cannot refrain from saying that Mr. Prior deserves well of the people of this Province for his persistent advocacy of one of their paramount questions.

### AN ILL-USED INDUSTRY.

(Colonist.)

We are glad to see that the Legislative Assembly passed unanimously a resolution declaring that "it is desirable that representation should be made to the Federal Government requesting them to exempt from taxation all such machinery which is not made in Canada which may be imported into this province for quartz mining purposes." The interest of one of the most important of the industries of the province demands that every obstacle in the way of its speedy and complete development be removed. Nature makes the work of the quartz miner difficult and expensive enough without Government interfering to retard his progress and lessen his prospects of success. For this is exactly what the Government does when it imposes a tax on mining machinery which must be imported from the United States. Quartz mining is an infant industry in British Columbia; it is not by any means a strong infant, and it promises to be a very hard one to rear. Those engaged in this infant industry, on the success of which the prosperity of the province in a very great measure depends, have the very best claim to look to the Federal government for help. The leading feature of its policy is to foster infant industry. It does this with respect to many industries which may be said to have passed the period of infancy. It shields them from outside competition at the expense of the consumers of the Dominion. The tariff has been revised expressly for their benefit. The manufacturers of sugar, of cotton, of hardware, of iron, of woollen cloth, and of a hundred other articles, are protected by the Government. Why, then, should an exception be made against the worker who slowly and laboriously extracts gold from the rocks of a mountainous region? None of the producers we have named are required to work under such unfavorable conditions as the quartz miner. None of them have to encounter one-tenth part of the obstacles which the quartz miner must surmount, or to bear one-hundredth part of the hardships and privations which they must endure. Yet they are assiduously cared for by the Government, while the miner is not only neglected, but discouraged and oppressed. We can hardly think that the

Government is so narrow-minded and so pedantic as to believe that there is no way of fostering an infant industry, but by imposing a tax in its favor. But from the policy hitherto pursued, we are almost forced to that conclusion. Other industries of far less importance to the provinces in which they are carried on, than quartz mining is to British Columbia, find no difficulty whatever in getting a higher duty placed on the products of foreign industries of the same kind; but when the British Columbia industry modestly asks for an exemption from a most burdensome tax, it is coldly heard and meets with a direct refusal. Exemption from federal taxation is just as necessary for the development of the quartz mining industry as the imposition of a protective tax for that of the eastern manufacturer. This must be plain to every man who is capable of forming an intelligent opinion on the subject. The object of the Government is to give the infant industry a chance. This is done by removing obstacles out of its way and giving it a clear field to work in. The obstacle in the way of the manufacturer is the foreign competitor. He is kept out of the way by a heavy tax. The obstacle in the way of the quartz miner is, strange to say, one of the Government's own creation. The Government places on the shoulders of the British Columbia infant, long before he can walk alone, a heavy burden of taxation and then cruelly and unreasonably leaves him unaided to climb over impediments of no ordinary nature with that load on his back. The thirty per cent. duty on mining machinery which is not manufactured in Canada, is a load which the infant industry of British Columbia ought not to be asked to carry. The only way in which the Government can help it is to take that load off. A protective tax can do it no good, it does not ask for or expect a bounty. All that it requires is that the Government, which protects and aids all other industries, will not encumber it with a burden which it should not in justice be made to carry. What have British Columbia quartz miners done that the Government should make an exception of their industry? As to the other industries it helps; theirs it does its best to hinder.

When all the facts of the case are considered it is not surprising that the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia has unanimously declared in favor of exempting quartz mining machinery from taxation. In this its members faithfully represent the opinion of every inhabitant of the province, no matter what his occupation may be. British Columbians feel keenly the injustice of retarding the development of the quartz mining industry, and the Federal Government would raise itself greatly in their estimation if it would relieve that industry of the burden it is compelled to bear. This it can do in perfect consistency with its own principles and policy and without doing the slightest injustice to any other Canadian industry.