

ing to suspend work one car load of ore averaging about \$150 per ton—I am still quoting from memory, but the exact returns were sent by myself to at least three newspapers, including the RECORD, and were read by me as well in Vancouver, Rossland, Spokane and local newspapers—and shortly afterwards a second carload were sent to the Canadian Pacific Company's smelter at Trail. The proceeds of this ore—between \$3,000 and \$4,000—were expended in further opening up the Gold Bug, a claim adjoining the company's group, and on which an option to purchase was obtained by the company in 1899. The question of taking up this option and of more of the shares in the company under the agreement first above mentioned will doubtless be fully gone into when the representative from England arrives. Meanwhile shareholders may rest assured that local interests are too strong to let the claims go. They are all Crown granted, but until some arrangement can be made to provide more capital so as to allow of a resumption of work, no further progress can be made. If the secretary has not supplied full information it is because latterly he has not been aware of what the syndicate will do. Further the omission to hold annual meetings is blameable to the shareholders themselves, for although meetings were regularly convened in 1899 and 1900 there was not on either occasion the requisite statutory number present—so many shareholders being non-resident—to allow of any business being transacted. I hope to be in a position next month to write something definite as to the future operations of the company."

Remarkably good reports of general progress and the re-awakened interest of capital are to hand from the Boundary country. The B. C., the Winnipeg, and the Brandon and Golden Crown are now between them shipping in the neighbourhood of 1,000 tons of ore a week to the Trail smelter. The City of Paris has already shipped 1,500 tons of ore to the Granby smelter at Grand Forks. It is as yet the day of small things in the Boundary country, but the indications are most encouraging that even with only six months remaining of the year, it will be a factor in the aggregate production.

The people of the Boundary country must be naturally well pleased to learn that there is every probability of the early establishment in their district of another smelter—in this instance on the new hot and cold blast system of pyritic smelting and of a daily capacity of 300 tons. It is stated by Mr. Andrew Laidlaw, of Spokane, who acts for the smelter company, that the plant is already ordered, whilst a smelter site will promptly be chosen. The principal on which the new smelter is to work is that adopted with success at Leadville, Colorado, where tests are reported to have shown that the system is well adapted for the treatment of much of the ore of the Boundary country.

The Boundary mining country is certainly now beginning to make a substantial first mark as smelter and shipments have already there reached a basis of 1,000 tons a week, most at present going to Trail, though several thousand tons of ore are now waiting treatment at the Granby smelter, Grand Forks. Up to date at least 6,000 tons of Boundary ore have this season been sent to Trail and exclusive of the mine

workers of the North Fork section and the men of the Granby smelter, there are already at least 600 workers now engaged in direct connection with Boundary mining. Hence as regards copper output, Boundary should certainly by the end of the year have revealed itself as by no means a bad second to Trail Creek amongst the districts of British Columbia. And as Texada Island and the Mount Sicker district of Vancouver Island are together now shipping 2,000 tons a month of copper ores, our province can no longer be deemed as regards substantial copper output, a "one camp" region.

For some unexplained reason the Slocan still lags behind. True it is that the production during May showed an increase, but not nearly so great an increase as might reasonably have been expected. During the period of the shut-down somewhere in the neighbourhood of 300 men were employed throughout the Slocan in doing dead work under contract, and in making improvements on the surface. Surely some reserve of ore was accumulated during that time. So that a rate of production in excess of the average capacity of the district might have been expected for some time at least after the difficulties were adjusted. But this has not been the case. The Slocan, like an influenza patient, seems to have hard work recovering its tone. The output of ore for this year compares very unfavourably with both that of last year and of the year before. It is sincerely to be hoped that the latter half of the year will show a change and a cumulative increase in the amount of ore shipped sufficient to replace the Slocan in its high position as one of the great productive districts of the province.

It remains to be seen whether or not a reported strike of good nickel ore near Trout Lake will prove of profitable workable extent and value, and although further efforts are about to be made to work mica claims in the Tete Jaune Cache country, these last are at present so far from settlements and difficult of access, that much cannot be expected of them in the present. However, both cases suggest possibilities of valuable future additions to the mining opportunities of our province.

The miners and local press of Rossland are protesting against an apparently organized influx of Italian labour into the mines of the camp. They together urge that it is desirable that the influx of this class of labour be confined as far as possible to moderate dimensions, the Italian mine workers comparing badly socially with other Western labourers. There is much to be said for this Western miners' view of Italian labour, but our Westerners must, if they wish to reduce the influx and employment of Italian workers to small proportions, be reasonable and conciliatory, and not immoderate and aggressive in their attitude towards employing capitalists.

It is impossible to exaggerate the satisfaction felt by the Western workers of this province over the fact that Chinese colliery labour is now being very substantially replaced by white, in Messrs. Dunsmuir's extensive Extension collieries. It is generally hoped that there will no such fate befall any of our great mine industries as that which has happened in the case of our greatest fishery, ordinary employment in