

following words: "If the local smelters are doing what is right by the mine owners the latter should say so in such a manner as will carry conviction. On the other hand, if the mine owners have a grievance against the smelters let them state it with equal clearness." The situation appears to be a simple one; either the home smelters are treating the mine owners fairly or they are not. If not, the latter should show wherein the unfairness lies. The silver-lead industry has enough difficulties to contend against in other ways without the local press adding to them by publishing statements tending to discourage the employment of capital in the further development of the industry, if these statements be not warranted. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the *Daily News* to get at the exact position will result in a better understanding being arrived at, and that soon.

It has become so customary to regard the ores of the Boundary District of British Columbia as all low-grade that it comes as somewhat of a surprise to find that in that district there are being developed properties that by no means come under this heading. Whilst specimen assays gave high values, with no smelter returns from car-load lots to confirm the occurrence in the quartz ores of gold and silver in sufficient quantities to make the opening up of these leads profitable, the opinion that the ores were of low-grade only seemed well warranted, but the development now taking place on several mineral claims situate in the immediate vicinity of Greenwood indicates that it may ere long be found necessary to considerably qualify the statement that the ores of the district are without exception low-grade. The Providence mine has now shipped more than 300 tons of ore containing values chiefly in gold and silver, with a little lead. From the smelter returns of 199 tons of this ore it has been ascertained that it contained an average of gold 1.79 ozs. and silver 253.28 ozs., giving an average value (with silver at changing prices) of \$133.27 per ton. The gold content of this ore varied considerably, ranging from .61 oz. in one carload lot to 5.40 ozs. per ton in another. There was less variation in the silver, the lowest having been 194.90 ozs. and the highest 300.80 ozs. per ton. One carload of rather less than 22 tons net gave a gross return of \$5,064.58, but this was exceptional, although the average value of the three last carloads including the one just mentioned, was at the rate of \$200.86 per ton. An adjoining property, the Elkhorn, is also developing satisfactorily, the ore showing much native silver in places, and it has a satisfactory gold content as well. Half a dozen other claims in the same neighbourhood are also opening up

well, with the result that from 80 to 100 men are regularly employed on these high-grade properties and the town of Greenwood is benefiting accordingly from this new development. It is worthy of note that when, in 1897, Mr. W. A. Carlyle, then Provincial Mineralogist, paid an official visit to the Boundary, he expressed a favourable opinion of the possibilities of the quartz veins he saw around Greenwood; and that Mr. R. W. Brock, geologist in charge of the Dominion Geological Survey party that spent the seasons of 1901-2 in the district, also considered these veins well worthy the attention of mining men prepared to develop them.

We learn with regret that one of the province's parliamentary representatives at Ottawa is not strictly in accord with the suggestion that has been made by the Provincial Mining Association in respect to the establishment of a Federal Department of Mines. This gentleman believes that quite as useful a purpose would be served by the appointment of a "Commissioner of Mines," for, he points out, the Dominion Government would have no actual jurisdiction in matters appertaining to mining in Canada excepting only in the case of the North-West and Yukon Territories. We do not, however, recognize the logic of this argument. Canada is already an important mining country and surely if agriculture has cabinet representation and a Department is maintained in the interests of that industry, on what grounds can be shown that mining has not almost equal claims to consideration? It is true that by the establishment of a Department of Mines British Columbia would perhaps be the first to benefit. As a mineral producing area it is the most important of the provinces, and there are yet immense tracts of territory awaiting exploration. Furthermore the older settled provinces of Quebec and Ontario are in a position, while British Columbia is not, to maintain a fairly efficient public service to assist in the exploitation and development of the mining industries in those provinces. But these surely cannot be regarded as sound reasons against the proposal. British Columbia is, after all, as much an integral part of Canada as is Ontario, and apart from political considerations, as much entitled to recognition.

The shareholders of the Payne Company have every reason to be satisfied with the report as presented at the recent annual general meeting, and the mine manager, and Mr. Garde is to be heartily congratulated on the excellent showing he has been able to make since assuming charge of the property. The outlook at the mine for a time was exceedingly unsatisfactory, in