

to work them. British Columbia dredge-mining is in its infancy, so the Province can learn much from the considerable experience of New Zealand, where much success is being achieved after many failures had taught the best methods to be employed.

Convincing testimony to the substantial improvement that has taken place in the condition of the mining industry of the Slocan and other silver-lead producing sections of the Province may be found in the address of the president of the organization known as the Associated Silver-Lead Mines of British Columbia, which held its annual meeting at Sandon, Slocan, last month. The association has for its particular objects the protection and advancement of the silver-lead mining industry of the Province, and its persistent activity in presenting facts and figures showing some of the causes of the depressed condition of the industry prior to the granting of the lead bounty by the Dominion Parliament and indicating the direction in which effective assistance could be rendered to bring about a change for the better, has been mainly instrumental in securing to the Slocan, Ainsworth, East Kootenay and other parts benefitting materially from the resumption of production on a comparatively large scale by the silver-lead mines, the period of prosperity they are now experiencing. The enthusiasm of the president, Mr. Alfred C. Garde, resident manager of the Payne Consolidated Mining Company, in his zealous labours in the interests of both the silver-lead and zinc mining industries—the latter being especially indebted to him for his untiring efforts to make it a commercial success—is such that the association did well, if we may be permitted to say so, in re-electing him as its official head. The prospects for both the industries just mentioned, which from the association of silver, lead and zinc in the ores of many of the mines, are to a considerable extent bound up together, are decidedly encouraging, and we have no doubt the value of the mineral production of these mines will this year be large. Another gratifying result, at least in several instances, will be a resumption of dividend-paying. Already a commencement has been made, for the Slocan Star last month paid a dividend totalling \$25,000 and not long ago the Sunset distributed \$8,000 among its few fortunate owners. It is not too much to expect that this will be the best year in respect to profit-earning the Slocan has had since its most flourishing days, and we are heartily glad that conditions appear to warrant this anticipation.

A short but very expressive sentence occasionally heard is contained in the two words "Money Talks." In mining matters it is profits that talk. The Slocan *Drill* gives an instance of this kind of talk which not only affords much gratification locally but is of the right ring to carry conviction in quarters where it may do material service in the direction of influencing others to put money into British Columbia mining properties. The *Drill* says: "The mines of the dry

ore belt pay handsomely with careful management, as note the Ottawa. Thos. A. Noble, one of the owners of the mine, states that during the month of July the ore shipped netted \$24,533.70 over and above freight and treatment charges. The expenses of the mine average a little over \$4,000 a month, leaving a net profit of \$20,000. The mine has paid for itself in two years and is rated as being worth \$250,000. Where mines in this division are given fair treatment they pay, and pay well."

Recently the Ottawa was visited by the representative of a Denver, Colorado machinery firm. That gentleman's impressions were given publicity; he is reported to have remarked "The Ottawa has proved an agreeable surprise to me. Its record of paying for its purchase and development in two years, is as unique as it is remarkable, especially as the value of the mine is now infinitely greater than it could have been at the time of its purchase." When the Denver visitor returns to Colorado his account of what he saw in the Slocan may arouse more than a passing interest in the high-grade silver properties of that district. The Ottawa is owned by two Pittsburg, Pa., men, who are so pleased with it that they are extending their holdings in the "dry ore belt" of the Slocan City mining division. This is not a solitary instance of the effectiveness of the talk of profits. Some time since a Chicago man was induced to put some money into the Providence Company's enterprise at Greenwood. When profits began to be made, as they soon did, he visited the district looking for other opportunities to acquire promising mining interests, and since then he has brought in friends on a similar errand. And there are others. Truly "profits talk," not so much to newspapers that publish highly-coloured accounts of rich specimens and high assays, as to men ready to spend money in legitimate mining development promising a profitable return.

In our June issue we made brief reference to the expected early completion of the converter plant the British Columbia Copper Company was installing at its smelter at Greenwood, in the Boundary district. This plant has since been completed and is now in successful operation, so that the Bessemerizing of the copper matte produced by the blast furnaces of the smelter is effected on the spot and the final product of the works is now a 99 per cent. blister copper instead of, as formerly, a 45 per cent. copper matte. This means that instead of the matte being sent to the United States for the purpose, it is converted into copper where it is made. The final process of refining, to separate the gold and silver contained in the blister copper from that metal, has still to be done elsewhere, but, in view of the advances made in British Columbia during the last few years, it is not too much to expect that the Province will possess its own refinery in the course of another year or two. When the B. C. Copper Company was erecting its smelter the announcement that it was planned to add Bessemer works in the near future was regarded by many as an optimistic forecast, pleasing but over-sanguine.