

early in October, and should this process under practical test give the results promised, or only approximately equal to the results obtained from laboratory experiment, its general application to the treatment of the very large and numerous deposits of ores not only at Rossland, but in many other sections of the Province, where values are not sufficiently high to admit of profitable extraction by present utilized methods, will follow in natural course, and mean very nearly as much to British Columbia, as the demonstration of the uses of cyanide of potassium as a means of recovering values from tailings, had in the case of South African mining. The liberal bounty offered by the Dominion Government on lead ore production has already stimulated industry in the Slocan and East Kootenay, and in the course of the next few months a general revival of mining in the several sections of those districts may be confidently anticipated. The provisions governing, meanwhile, the distribution of the bounty are eminently wise and practical, the Government having clearly recognized the importance of safeguarding the interests of the home smelting industries, by stipulating that the mine-operator in order to earn the bounty on the lead he produces, must, unless receiving special permission or authority to make a departure from this rule, send his ores to Canadian works for smelter treatment. While at the present time relatively few shipments of lead ores are being made to outside smelters, for the reason that local smelting rates are at least no heavier, yet the safeguard is, for obvious reasons, a judicious one, and ensures to two important Kootenay industries a long term of uninterrupted prosperity.

Reports from the Nelson, Ymir and Erie districts have of late been altogether favourable. Several additions have quite recently been made to the number of the productive mines and some of the returns therefrom have been exceptionally high. The very promising new finds on Poplar and other creeks in the Duncan-Lardo country are likely to cause further exploration and a considerable investment of capital in a district the richness of which has been long suspected; although by reason of the inaccessibility of the region—a drawback no longer experienced—no very determined effort has been put forward ere this to prove the value of the discoveries. Again, in the Fish Creek and Camborne area the development of free-milling quartz veins carrying good values is most satisfactorily proceeding, and if this progress is maintained, the designation, the "Cripple Creek of B. C.," recently given to the camp by one enthusiastic mine-operator there, may soon be shown to be far from inappropriate. Several important installations of

machinery are also being made at Trout Lake mines, production from which is steadily increasing; important hydraulic mining developments are taking place in the Big Bend; in Kamloops arrangements have been completed for the operation of the two principal properties on a large scale; and there is decidedly greater evidence of activity in Nicola and the Similkameen. On the Coast, the outlook is now better than it has been for years. The Tyee mine at Mount Sicker is at length in a position to earn substantial dividends; operations have been resumed at the Lenora; the Texada mines are making regular shipments; the Britannia mine at Howe Sound is shortly to be extensively operated and other promising claims in the vicinity developed, and the adjustment of the labour troubles at Ladysmith has greatly stimulated coal mining activity on Vancouver Island. While it is true that conditions in Cariboo this year have not been altogether favourable and the season is likely to be a short one, the yields so far have not been unsatisfactory, and the aggregate returns should not at any rate fall below those of last year. In other placer fields fair progress is being made, reports from Atlin in particular being on the whole encouraging. In brief, conditions throughout the country have in a most extraordinary manner suddenly and spontaneously improved, so much so that instead of the outlook being, if not lowering, at least, far from assuring, the entire situation has changed to one of bright promise.

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The custom followed by some mining companies of periodically publishing detailed reports of operations, while doubtless commendable from one point of view, may not be always in the interests of shareholders. The shareholder naturally desire to be kept properly and regularly informed concerning the operation of the property in which his money is invested; but it is obviously preferable that the necessary information should be general in character, rather than rendered so comprehensive as to be incomprehensible to the non-technical public, but extraordinarily useful and valuable to business rivals or competitors. Hence, we think, no objection can be taken to the determination arrived at by the directors of the Le Roi Company, to discontinue in future the publication of the customary detailed reports supplementing the monthly cablegrams of the general manager. Notification of this decision is conveyed in a circular letter issued to shareholders, with the explanation that the publication of the detailed reports has resulted in the "company's business of purchasing customs ores being already badly handicapped by permitting its