

Province. The "All Canada" party of delegates to the Fifth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held last month in Montreal, Quebec, is scheduled to reach Victoria on the 8th inst., visit Crofton and Nanaimo on the 10th, Revelstoke 13th, the Boundary 14th, Nelson 15th, and thence return eastward *via* the Crow's Nest Pass on the 17th. This party will be composed chiefly of visitors from Great Britain, and will number about 100, travelling in two sections. The second party is to consist of members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and friends, whose itinerary provides for Toronto being left on the 19th inst., Coast cities being visited from September 28th to October 2nd, Rossland, October 3rd, Nelson, 4th and Fernie, 6th. It would be well to take full advantage of these favourable opportunities of impressing visitors from Great Britain and Eastern Canada, few if any of whom have any personal knowledge of British Columbia, with the great extent and enormous possibilities of the mineral resources of the Province. Their visit will necessarily be a hurried one, and being so but few mines, smelters, etc., will be visited during the very limited time they will be in any one section of the Province, but any available literature giving straight facts and statistics relative to the mining industry should be freely provided for the information and use of the visitors.

Commenting the other day on the effect the lead bounty would exercise on production in the province, Mr. Cronin, manager of the St. Eugene mine, at Moyie, expressed the view that the bonus was, after all not so considerable as might appear, although of course, it would serve the purpose for which it is granted in stimulating industry. He instanced that when the price of lead in London advances over £12 10s. is equal to about \$2.67 a hundred pounds; which plus the bounty of 75 cents a hundred, makes a quotation of \$3.42 a hundred. Therefore \$3.42 a hundred is the highest price which the lead producer could receive for lead under the benefits of the bounty. Again the home smelters to which the miner sells his product deduct an arbitrary charge of \$1 a hundred from the London quotations, to make up for alleged expenses in exporting the lead. Therefore all the B. C. producer hopes to realize is \$2.42 a hundred pounds, while the American operators receive 31-2 cents. As a matter of fact, with London lead worth about £11 6s., as at present, the local settlement including the bounty on lead ores, is approximately \$2.20.

The practice of mine leasing is gradually becoming more prevalent in British Columbia, and recent instances have thoroughly demonstrated the practical advantages of the system. Many of the properties now being successfully operated under lease are owned by British corporations, under whose management operations were not profitable. The reason for success in the one case and failure in the other is easily explained. The difference frequently between profit and loss in the working of a mine is found under the head of general expenses. The leaseholder does not require to maintain an expensive suite of offices; he has no staff of clerks or ornamental board of directors to pay; cable expenses to meet or the stock market to consider. Moreover, he is as a rule a practical miner well versed in local conditions, and consequently he wastes neither time nor money in experimenting. It may be also added that he has never been known to erect costly plants to treat his ore before he has any ore to treat.

A further favourable sign of returning prosperity in the mining districts is the increasingly large demand for mining machinery, which is now most noticeable. Hardly a week passes without one or more important installation being made, while the number of mine equipments, more or less considerable, immediately contemplated makes a quite formidable list. Last week no less than five carloads of machinery were taken into the Lardeau, and stamp-mills and concentrators have been or are about to be ordered for half a dozen other properties in that district. There have probably been more installations of mills this year in British Columbia than ever before and there seems to be every probability that the branch of free-milling quartz mining heretofore never very successfully followed in the province, except in one or two isolated cases, will ere long assume very considerable proportions.

Much gratification is expressed locally at the satisfactory results attending the operations of a syndicate engaged in hydraulic mining on Thibet Creek in the Cassiar district, a first clean-up of the season after a twenty days' run, having resulted in a yield of 780 ounces, valued at \$13,000. The syndicate is chiefly composed of men who were formerly connected with the Cassiar Central Railway, whose plans, however, failed to mature. The operators of the Thibet Creek mine, nevertheless, have steadfastly maintained a confidence in the resources of the country, and in their undertaking, and although a landslide and other unlucky incidents have heretofore interfered with success, it would seem at length persistency and faith are about to reap their reward.