

ing. Half the possible gold results of the work were therefore lost. The vanners should never have been allowed to freeze, and thus cause the loss of valuable concentrates. All which goes to show that granted skilled and well directed management in the future, there is good reason to anticipate the ultimate success of a temporarily disappointing gold mining company.

PROPOSED BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF MINES.

It is proposed to establish, in and for British Columbia, following examples in Australia and South Africa, a Chamber of Mines. The chief objects of the suggested Chamber's work would be as follows:

1. To promote and protect the mining interests and industries of the Province of British Columbia.
2. To consider all questions connected with the mining industry, and to promote public discussion thereon.
3. To promote legislative and other measures affecting such mining industry.
4. To collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to such mining industry.
5. To communicate with and exchange information upon mining matters with chambers of mines or government departments of mines in the Dominion of Canada and other countries.
6. To procure information as to mines, mining companies, and all matters relating thereto, and circulate the same.
7. To establish, form and maintain a library, and museum of models, specimens, designs, drawings, and other articles of interest in connection with the mining industry, for the use of members.
8. To act as arbitrators in the settlement of any disputes arising out of mining.
9. To sell, improve, manage, lease, mortgage, dispose of, turn to account, or otherwise deal with any part of the property of the Chamber.
10. To invest the moneys of the Chamber, not immediately required, upon such security or conditions, and on such terms, or otherwise in such manner as may from time to time be determined.
11. To borrow any money required for the purposes of the Chamber upon such securities as may be determined.
12. To obtain, whenever, thus determined, an act of the Provincial Legislature for the incorporation of the Chamber, and any other act which may be deemed conducive to any of these objects.

The membership of the Chamber is to consist of five classes, namely:

- (1) Representative members.
- (2) Associate members.
- (3) Honorary members.
- (4) Foreign members.
- (5) Visiting members.

Various rates of subscription will, in due course, be fixed for all the above classes of members, save and except, of course, those that are honorary.

Clauses 13 and 14 provide that syndicates, associations of owners, claim owners and companies may, on terms of subscription to be fixed, nominate representative members; whilst any resident in the Province directly interested in mining may become an associate member of the Chamber, on nomination and election, and payment of a subscription, to be fixed in due course.

The appointment of honorary members is placed in the hands of the Chamber's executive committee, such honorary members to have the privileges of associate members of the Chamber without liability to subscription.

Foreign members are to pay a reduced subscription, to receive copies of all the Chamber's publications, and be entitled to all the privileges of associate members.

Visiting members, not being residents of the Province, may be duly nominated and elected for a period of three months on payment of a subscription, to be duly fixed, and are to enjoy the privileges of associate members, but are not to attend meetings of the Chamber unless invited by the executive committee.

Other usual provisions of similar organizations follow, including rules for the election of a managing or executive committee, but all the regulations are, of course, subject to large revision and modifications by the organizing temporary committee, of which Mr. W. J. Waterman is acting secretary, and which includes a representative body of British Columbia mining men.

THE NELSON DISTRICT'S ADVANCE.

The trade returns of the port of Nelson for the month of December furnish the best evidence of the progress now being made in development of the mines of Southern Kootenay. For the month just closed the value of mineral exports is given at \$837,004. Of this amount \$417,162 represented the value of 617 tons of copper matte, \$415,866 the value of crude ore, and \$3,976 the value of gold bullion. Compared with the corresponding month of 1896 the mineral exports show a gain of almost 60 per cent., and as against December, 1895, a gain of about 800 per cent. In December, 1896, the mineral exports aggregated \$523,200, and in December, 1895, \$116,921 as against \$837,004 for the month just closed. The figures with respect to the revenue collections show that for the month of December the total amount of duty collected was \$22,966.59. The Dominion is making a big profit out of Kootenay revenue contributions, as is also its case as concerning the payments of the Province in general. Ottawa takes good care to exact more than it returns to British Columbia by many hundred thousand dollars yearly.