

for it is so satisfactory that it is suggested the purchasing company is adopting a liberal policy towards mine owners with a view to stimulating the production of ore.

At the annual business meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers held in New York on February 20, ulto., Mr. Wm. Fleet Robertson, of Victoria, provincial mineralogist of British Columbia, was elected a member of the Council of the Institute for a period of three years. This election is, doubtless, the more gratifying to Mr. Robertson from the fact that a distinct compliment has been paid him since he is the only member of the Council resident out of the United States. The total membership of the Institute on January 1, 1906, was 3,884, as compared with 3,680 on January 1, 1905—a net gain for the year of 204 members.

The recent joint visit of officials of the British Columbia Copper Co., of New York, and the Denoro Mine, Ltd. of Rossland, B.C., to the latter company's Oro Denoro mine situated in Summit camp, adjoining the Emma mine which the B. C. Copper Co. is operating, has led to the conclusion that the first mentioned company has an option on the Oro Denoro on which large ore bodies are known to occur and which has during the last three years shipped about 40,000 tons of ore to district smelters. Prospecting with the diamond drill is in progress. The mine is favourably situated in respect of transportation since the lines of both the Canadian Pacific and Great Northern railways cross the property.

The long tunnel being driven at the Rambler-Cariboo company's mine in the Slocan district is in nearly the distance it was calculated would have to be driven to reach the ore vein, which it is believed lies down to depth, so news of success having been achieved in this enterprise may be expected shortly. If it be found that there is sufficient ore for profitable working at the depth that will here be reached—about 1,400 ft. below the surface—a decided impetus will be given to deep-level mining in the Slocan, for other companies will be encouraged by the success of the Rambler-Cariboo company to follow its excellent example.

The annual review of the president of the Board of Trade of the town of Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, contains the following reference to the Wellington Colliery Co's coal mines in that neighbourhood: Our staple industry is, of course, the coal mines, and from this source alone an amount estimated at \$750,000 has been circulated in wages. Work in the mine has been uniformly steady, especially during what is usually slack times, viz., the summer, when the strike at the Nanaimo collieries kept the Extension mines busy supplying the market. The value of the coal mined is estimated at \$1,500,000. With the continued demand for coal existing in our principal market, viz., San Francisco, we may look forward with confidence

to steady work and consequently good circulation of money from this source for the ensuing year.

A writer in the *Toronto Globe* observes: "Dormant mineral claims are hidden away in title deeds in all parts of the Province. They are the worst kind of obstruction. Mr. Auld's idea of making them liable to assessment will effect far-reaching improvement." One would think he had an intimate knowledge of the condition of very many Crown-granted mineral claims—by far the larger number of that class—in British Columbia when he used the word "obstruction." Dormant claims are truly an obstruction to progress and, since their number is steadily increasing, they are likely to further retard progress each year as time passes.

The *Cranbrook Prospector* is of opinion that "the coming of the Spokane International railway will be the most potent stimulus which has been given to the mining and industrial growth of Cranbrook district." Whether the district immediately tributary to Cranbrook be materially benefited or not by the establishment of direct railway connection between the C. P. R. Co's Crow's Nest Pass railway and the City of Spokane, there is one decided advantage that is assured, viz., that the Crow's Nest Pass coal fields will have an enlarged market for their coal, especially under the condition that there will, on the completion of this railway, be competing roads between the district providing the supply and the city and districts to be supplied.

A complaint was made to the Department of Mines, Victoria, that an unlicensed assayer was making assays for the public at Hedley. The *Hedley Gazette*, in referring to the matter stated that "no charge was being made for assays and no certificates given." This, however, would not have justified the department in ignoring the complaint, so it properly required that the assayer present himself for examination or cease to make assays for the public. There are in the Province numbers of assayers who have fulfilled the reasonable requirements of the law, so in justice to them as well as for the protection of the public it is necessary that all who do assay work outside of that for the mining companies employing them should pass the provincial examination and receive the customary certificate.

According to an estimate made by the *Phoenix Pioneer* there are more than 2,000 men employed at the mines and smelters and on the railways of the Boundary district. Of this total the Granby Co. employs nearly 800, the Dominion Copper Co. about 350, and the British Columbia Copper Co. nearly 300, these figures including employees at both mines and smelters of these three companies. The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. finds work for about 300 men on its district branch railway lines, and the Great Northern Railway Co. some 120. A number of small mines together provide regular employment for between 150 and 200