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THE MONTH.

TIMES in West Kootenay, but particularly in the
Slocan districts, have been somewhat depressed
for the past few months, but recently the indications
have been very marked that a gratifying change in
the condition of affairs may be shortly looked for. At

the more important mines in the vicinity of Sandon
and Nelson, the forces of workmen are being in-
creased, and many properties are being
equipped with large machinery plants.
THE
OUTLOOK IN The ore shipments, too, which have
WEST fallen off considerably, since March,

KOOTENAY. owing chiefly to snow-slides and block-
ades, and the impassable condition of the roads, will,
we are led to believe, make a decidedly respectable
showing hereafter, especially as one of the principal
producing mines, the Slocan Star, is again making
regular shipments. It cannot, however, be expected
that the Slocan—despite the extraordinary richness of
the lead ores of the district—will enjoy complete pros-
perity as long as the costs of freight and treatment are
as excessive as they are at present. An eminently
sensible move was made when delegates were sent
from Kaslo and Nelson to submit this important mat-
ter to the attention of the Federal Government, and
notwithstanding the lateness of the session, as a result
of the strong representations made by the members of
the delegation, there is a decided probability that a
commission will be appointed to enquire into the
question with a view to its future and early adjust-
ment. But even if the remedy, as suggested, of the
imposition of a prohibitive import duty on lead and



VIEW ON THE SKEENA.