

in his report that the output from the Slocan and East Kootenay lead mines is falling far short of estimates made by the Silver-Lead Miners' Association at the beginning of the year.

Another interesting feature of this address was the intimation that the company contemplate introducing a "new process" by which the costs of smelting in the future will be materially reduced. This reference was made in explanation and confirmation of a paragraph which appeared in the Directors' Report stating that the Board have under consideration the adoption of a process which is said to have worked successfully in Australia and elsewhere, showing a great saving on old methods. It will at present be conceded, we think, that there is room for improvement in lead smelting practice in British Columbia, far greater advances having been made in the economic production of gold-copper ores. It is needless to add, for example, that the Hall Mines' smelter is far from being a model of well-planned construction for which, however, the present management is in no way responsible.

In view of an erroneous report in respect to the Hunter V. mine, published recently in an important Eastern mining journal, we print the following information: The company has made arrangements for shipments of 160 tons a day to the Granby, Northport, Trail and Nelson smelters, and expects to increase this output within the next two months. The greater part of the output carries as high lime as ever, namely, about 45 per cent CaO and only about 12 per cent silica. A portion of the ore body recently opened up is somewhat more silicious, carrying 25 to 35 per cent silica, and higher values, running from \$8.00 to \$10.00. The crushing plant which is under consideration is similar to that in use at the Mother Lode and Granby mines in the Boundary district, and is calculated to save much bulldozing and hammer breaking of rock. One quarry upon the deposit is about 140 feet wide, with ore on all sides. The other, 1400 feet distant on the line of the deposit, is about 70 ft. by 100 ft.

In a paper recently read before the British Association an interesting comparison was made between the present hydro-electric developments in different countries. In this connection it is gratifying to note the position of Canada, which occupies the second place, the greatest developments now being those in the United States. Canada is credited with the development of 228,225 horse-power, which, however, is below rather than above the mark, for these figures do not appear to consider the recent important installations at Niagara. It is not too much to expect that, in time, the development of water power in the Dominion will exceed that of any country in the world, for certainly no country in the world possesses finer natural facilities therefor. On the Pacific slope in particular the potentialities in this direction are

very great, and there can be no doubt that the abundant opportunities for cheaply developing water powers in British Columbia are destined to play a still more important part in the industrial developments of the country.

For several months Mr. Thos. Kiddie, manager of the Tyee Copper Company's smelting works at Ladysmith, has been experimenting with hot blasts for the furnace at that smelter. After close observation of the results obtained Mr. Kiddie felt justified in recommending that the substitution of hot blast for cold be given a trial, and now, his recommendations having been approved by the Board of Directors, he is arranging to give the hot blast a thoroughly practical test. Its success would mean an appreciably large saving in the cost of smelting, for not only would the percentage of coke used be considerably lessened, but the proportion of raw ore that could be smelted would be largely increased, thus doing away to a great extent with the cost of roasting the ore and tramping it from the roast piles to the roast ore bins. On previous occasions we have had the pleasure of calling public attention to distinct advances in metallurgical practice made at the Tyee Copper Company's smelter, and we shall be much gratified if as may be confidently anticipated, another success be achieved at these works, thereby demonstrating that metallurgy on Vancouver Island is well abreast of the times.

The difficulty of securing financial support in London for British Columbian mining undertakings at the present time is all but insurmountable, and in consequence the few promising ventures remaining in which British capital is enlisted have either to reach a profit-earning standing as best they may without further aid, or else go to the wall. Thus though every effort has been made by the directors of Slough Creek, Limited, to place another issue of debentures, the attempt, according to a circular issued to shareholders, has failed, and the interest on the £20,000 debenture stock having fallen due, it has become necessary to appoint a receiver to protect the interests of the debenture-holders. It seems to us that there are, however, only two ways by which these interests can possibly be protected. Either the mine must be immediately sold or work continued without pause. To sell the mine at anything like a fair figure in its present condition would, however, be practically impossible. Of course, if there is no money, work must necessarily cease, but shareholders would be certainly most ill-advised to allow their property to go by the board at this juncture, when by submitting to another call sufficient capital might be raised to successfully complete the pumping operations. Thereafter the mine should be made to yield very handsome returns.

A rather curious error, possibly a misprint, appeared in connection with an article contributed recently to the *Engineering and Mining Journal* by Mr. Robert Musgrave on the subject of the copper de-