It is a satisfaction, however, to know that the Canadian Pacific Company are prepared to build the road. Coming from them the declaration invests the project with a degree of substantiality it has not hitherto possessed. If it had not been for the neglect or hesitancy of the Government, the road would have been under construction ere this.

It is well that the people of Kootenay and the other mining districts of British Columbia should consider matters of this kind which show neglect on the part of the authorities. We could give other instances where the interests of this Province have been overlooked but the space at our command forbids mentioning them. Sufficient has been given, however, to indicate that a change of policy toward this country is needed. Now is the time to assert our rights. If we are to be treated in the future as we have been in the past, we may make up our minds that the progress of mining in British Columbia will be slow, and just at a time when mining investments are attracting capital from all parts of the world, we cannot afford to have our progress hampered. A change is necessary.

Now that the claim of British Columbia to cabinet representation in the Dominion Government has been acknowledged, it may be well to consider whether the mining interests of Canada are of sufficient importance to have a department created for them. If they are, one of our members from British Columbia might very appropriately fill the position of Minister of Mines.

We have a Minister of Trade and Commerce, one of Agriculture and another of Marine and Fisheries; why then should there not be one of Mines? Mining next to Agriculture is destined to be the most important industry of the Dominion. Its growth is likely to be both rapid and great if properly looked after. A Department of Mines would have plenty to occupy the attention of a Minister.

There are not a few, however, who think that we have too many cabinet ministers as it is—the number they say might well be decreased. The only way to meet this would be to double up some of the departments under one minister. The Department of Trade and Commerce has actually three ministers looking after it—it might well be confided to two. The Secretary of State would not have to over-work himself if he took a second department under his wing; and so, a re-adjustment might be arranged to make way for a Department of Mines with a minister in charge of it.

We do not suppose THE RECORD's effort at cabinet making will disturb the slumbers of the powers that be, but the idea we have expressed is at least worthy of consideration by our mining people. Why not take it up and ventilate it? It may bear fruit, and if it does it will be a good thing for the mining industries of this Province.

Victoria, not content with having only one Stock Exchange, has been contemplating the idea of having two. It will end by there being only one. Some people think that even one is unnecessary. We don't. We think if a Stock Exchange is properly conducted it will be a good thing and will act as a protection to investors.

The promoters of the first, or we may say the original, Stock Exchange, organized in Victoria thought they could get along very well without the presence of brokers in their midst. They never made a greater mistake in their lives. It is surprising how unconquerable is the desire with some to have things all to themselves. This was the trouble, it appears, with a few of the originators of the first stock exchange.

The brokers, however, had their friends and immediately steps were taken to form a second exchange which gave promise of being so much of a success in point of numbers, at least, that there would have been nobody left to join the first exchange.

This brought the latter to time and the whole trouble will end, no doubt, as we have predicted, by the two forming into one. It is time that the stock exchange should get to work in earnest as curb-stone brokers are getting too numerous and are beginning to ply their trade in a manner that bodes ill for those who are foolish enough to believe in them and throw their money away in pure speculation.

We do not hear much of the Vancouver stock exchange. Are the promoters too busy lining their own nests to give attention to the organization of what will prove to be a public benefit. Curbstone brokers are at work in Vancouver as well as in Victoria.

Duly incorporated mining companies, whose shares are offered for sale in the market should be compelled to publish a statement of their condition once a month, showing their earnings and expenses, etc., etc., in the same way as the Canadian Pacific Railway publish theirs. This would be a protection to the innocent investor against bogus concerns, and companies able to show a good record need not fear the ordeal. As it is now, it is difficult to know exactly, except in a few instances, what the mining companies are doing and investment in their shares means "going it blind."

The trend of English and foreign capital has set in this way. Several parties of capitalists are on the way and others have arrived in the Province. One party from England, we are told, have taken a house in Vancouver for six months, to make it their headquarters.