

parts of the Dominion is increased much more than that of British Columbia, which has a total production of all the minerals mentioned above of \$18,377,359, as compared with that of \$18,565,381 for all parts of Canada east of the Rocky Mountains. Taking together the Yukon production of \$10,337,000, and the \$18,377,359 of British Columbia, it is seen that the Pacific slope portion of the Dominion last year produced a total of \$28,714,359, as the value of metallic minerals, coal and coke, as against \$18,565,381 for the remainder of Canada. To give the other provinces their just due, however, it must be pointed out that after all the numerous non-metallic mineral products and the structural materials and clay products (these being included in the total mineral production of Canada), have been taken into account, the balance is not in favour of the Pacific slope, which has a total mineral production of \$29,314,359 as against \$31,028,806 for the remainder of the Dominion. This much, however, may be maintained, that British Columbia is distinctly in the lead in the total production of metallic minerals, with a reasonably good prospect of a proportionately larger increase from year to year than that likely to be made by the provinces east of the Rocky Mountains, while its coal and coke production promises to increase in greater proportion. Under these circumstances it would appear that in steadily increasing degree British Columbia will be, without cavil, the "Mineral Province" of Canada.

PROPOSED LE ROI-CENTRE STAR AMALGAMATION.

AFTER further discussing the proposed amalgamation of the Le Roi, Centre Star, War Eagle and Snowshoe mining companies, together with other important interests, representatives of the several companies mentioned and Mr. W. H. Aldridge, chief of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's mining and metallurgical department, proceeded to Winnipeg to there meet Professor R. W. Brock, who examined and valued the various mines proposed to be included in the consolidation. *En route* the proportions of valuations of the properties were considered. Press despatches since received state that no general agreement was arrived at as a result of the conference at Winnipeg. The intention was that after the Winnipeg meeting Messrs. Waterlow, Aldridge and Cronin should proceed to Toronto, to there further discuss matters with Mr. T. G. Blackstock, the most active member of the directorate of the Centre Star and War Eagle companies, and later to meet the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Montreal, with a view to coming to a final agreement prior to submitting the complete proposals to the stockholders of the respective companies concerned, for their approval and ratification. Notwithstanding that the expected progress was not made at the meeting at Winnipeg, it is hoped that continued negotiations will result satisfactorily, so that the sanction of the

stockholders to the consolidation may be obtained without protracted delay.

The foregoing comment is made on the assumption that the results of the expert examination of the mines, in respect of both quantities of ore available and values contained, are such as to indicate without any reasonable doubt that the big tonnage required to justify operation on the greatly enlarged scale understood to be intended can be obtained from the mines. This phase of the situation appears to have been almost, if not quite, lost sight of in the published comments on, and advocacy of, the amalgamation proposals. If an enormous ore supply be not available, then the advantages expected from the proposed consolidation will scarcely be realized, at any rate not to the extent indicated in press opinions. With the reports of the several mine managers, as well as that of Professor Brock, before them the directorates of the companies immediately interested will be sufficiently informed on this view of the position. There is little diversity of opinion as to the theoretical desirability of the consolidation: the question of its promise of practical success is, however, one that can only be wisely determined by those who have all available facts before them, which newspaper writers advocating the adoption of the proposals have not.

In regard to certain statements published in provincial newspapers to the effect that the Le Roi Mining Co.'s smelting works at Northport would be permanently closed down should the consolidation be arranged, there is no doubt, so we have been authoritatively informed, that such statements are incorrect. The question of where ores shall be smelted will, assuredly, be dealt with entirely on its merits—from a profit-earning standpoint, and not from one of sentiment. For some time, at least, the operation of the Northport smelter would be continued, as well as that of the Trail works. There should be no doubt upon this point, since the general managers of both establishments have indicated that such is the intention. It may be that later as much of the Northport plant as can be moved with advantage will be taken to some suitable point on the British Columbia side of the International boundary—such a favourably situated place, for instance, as Cascade, in the eastern part of the Boundary district, which has already been suggested as a site for reduction works on a large scale, owing to its accessibility from both Rossland and Boundary mines by down-grade transportation routes. A decision as to this is not, however, immediately required, but can be reached later, after mature consideration of the various advantages and drawbacks of such a change. For the present it is enough to know that there appears to be a general disposition on the part of those most concerned to bring about the proposed consolidation, if mutually satisfactory terms can be arranged, and that the final settlement of all matters of economic development of the industrial features of this big enterprise will be left in such fully competent hands as will ensure the attainment of the best results.