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THE MONTH.

The continued success attending the operation of the Providence and other high grade silver-gold properties in the Greenwood "granite belt" has had the very satisfactory effect of inducing the further investment of capital in promising prospects and claims in the neighborhood. During the month a number of transactions are reported to have taken place, by which Boundary properties of this class have been acquired under bond by syndicates proposing to proceed at once with development operations. To the individual investor and to syndicates consisting of men of small means, mining properties of this character are, of course, especially attractive, as they may often be made to yield handsome returns on a minimum expenditure of capital and labour.

The Nelson *Tribune* goes to a great deal of pains to publish periodically full and accurate monthly returns of Kootenay mine production, and the editor's enterprise in this respect is worthy of every commendation. In no captious spirit, however, we venture to point out that the practical utility and value of the compilation might be greatly enhanced at the expenditure of very slight additional pains in the direction of arrangement and classification. Thus in the

table recently published by our contemporary giving the returns for the month of August, fifty-one mines are shown to have made consignments to different smelting points, the presumption being that all these properties shipped ore in the crude form. This is misleading in that a very considerable tonnage from the Slocan, East Kootenay and even Ymir was made up of concentrates, which, if not so considered, affects the totals considerably, and at the same time makes it appear that certain mines, the Ymir for example, are making relatively small outputs. To the outside reader, too, seeking information the *Tribune's* table would be the better appreciated, we imagine, if in each case the class of ore produced by individual mines were given as well as tonnage therefrom.

Now that there is a Supreme Court judgeship vacant representations are being made to the Hon. the Minister of Justice, Ottawa, with the object of inducing the Federal Government to require that whoever shall be appointed to the vacancy shall reside permanently in the Kootenay. On behalf of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia the president, Mr. John Keen, has submitted reasons in support of such a course being adopted. If the Government accedes to the requests made by the bar of Nelson and Rossland, the Provincial Mining Association, the Press and the public, and makes the stipulation as to residence in the district, it is to be hoped that its choice of a successor to Mr. Justice Drake will be a lawyer especially fitted to deal with mining cases. Some very important matters relating to mines and mining companies have been before the courts held in Nelson and Rossland during the last year or two, and since with the growing importance of the mining districts others may be expected to require careful attention from time to time, it is desirable that this be kept in view in filling the judicial vacancy.

Two Alberta coal mines are about to ship their products to British Columbia. Elsewhere we have mentioned that the International Coal & Coke Company will shortly commence to supply the Granby Company with coke for the smelter at Grand Forks. The other company is the C. P. R., which has opened