

photographs never before published of scenery in Cassiar, showing at the same time different portions of the railway work executed last season by the Cassiar Central Railway Company. This company is quietly but gradually developing a portion of this country which must be a closed book to all enterprise until it is opened up by capital. The Cassiar Central Railway Company have spent a very large sum of money in prospecting apart from railway work during the past two seasons, and they are well pleased with the result of their explorations. On the 23rd inst., Mr. H. Hirschel Cohen, one of the directors, together with Mr. Alexander Hamfield, the general manager of the company in Cassiar, left for London to confer

charge, in addition to a direct charge of so much per ton on ore sent to the smelter for treatment. Indirect charges, it is pointed out, are made up in the following way :—

(1) Gold is paid for at the rate of only 95 per cent. of assay value, although practically 100 per cent. is actually recovered.

(2) Silver is paid for at the rate of 95 per cent. of assay value only.

(3) Copper, after deducting about 30 per cent. from the assay value, is paid for at less than half its market value.

(4) Fines are levied in numerous ways should the ores prove not to be of the particular fluxing quality



Glenora, B.C.

with the London board as to future operations of the company, and it is more than probable that during the coming season, amongst other expenditures in Cassiar, a complete plant will be installed on one of the company's mining properties which has been thoroughly prospected during the past two seasons.

In a work recently published in London, the author in his reference to mining in British Columbia, takes great exception to the charge system adopted by smelters throughout the West, and which he describes as being "little short of iniquitous." The evil he complains of is the imposition of a so-called indirect

preferred by the management of the smelter.

Now with regard to the first two of the indirect charges mentioned, it is perfectly true that the smelter only makes an allowance of 95 per cent. of the assay value of the gold and silver contents of ore treated. But it is not true that in practice 100 per cent. of the values is recovered. There is always a certain amount of loss in handling, and the richer the ore the greater the loss. Hence, if loss were not provided against in one way, it would necessarily be in another by simply increasing the direct charge for smelting to the mine-owner. But so long as the mine-owner knows that he can only expect to be paid