

has written to say that the publication of his name on the prospectus, and in the advertisements of that concern was entirely unauthorized, and without his knowledge or consent. Mr. Darlington was asked, it appears, to report on the company's claims some time ago, but he failed to do so, and has no connection whatever with the undertaking. As we previously stated the only expert opinion the company obtained was that supplied by Mr. A. A. Watson, B.Sc., of Vernon, whose report, however, was only relatively favourable, in that it testified to the promising surface showings on several of the prospects owned by the company in the Keremeos Valley, but described in the prospectus as "big mines." If the public had been invited to subscribe for shares on the strength of Mr. Watson's report there would have been no occasion for criticism, for Mr. Watson is, as everyone is aware, a trained geologist and well qualified to give an authoritative opinion on the value of mineral prospects, and in criticising the company's methods we certainly did not, as some seem to have imagined, intend for a moment to cast any slur upon Mr. Watson's professional attainments. Mr. Watson does not call himself a mining engineer, but he has made a special study of geology. In this connection the remarks made by Dr. Wolcott, at the fourteenth annual meeting of the Geological Society in the course of a discussion on the relation of geology to mining, is interesting. He said: "Nowadays the larger interests are not without a mining geologist, who is consulted on the larger affairs pertaining to the mine, while the technical work, measuring drifts, surveying the properties, etc., is done by the mining engineer, who receives smaller pay, and has less power than the mining geologist."

All signs point to a considerable revival of mining in the Cariboo district. The recent intelligence that the Slough Creek Limited, a British company engaged in deep level mining in this section, has at length tapped what is believed to be the ancient channel gravel bed at a depth of 385 feet from the surface, from which a drive of 1,000 feet was carried, is of great interest and importance, and news of the value of the deposits is naturally impatiently awaited, although confidence in the result is strongly expressed by those acquainted with Cariboo conditions. The Cariboo Gold Fields at Barkerville is operating this season on a very large scale, and great quantities of gravel are now being raised by means of hydraulic elevators. All the other mines in the vicinity of Barkerville and Stanley are said to be doing well, while a new territory is being opened up with promising results at Moffat Creek, between Harper camp and Beaver Lake. On the Upper

Horsefly a number of men are engaged in opening up and prospecting work, while sluicing is also in progress on some few properties.

The construction of the Kootenay & Arrowhead Railway, a branch of the Canadian Pacific system, having been at length completed, the Lardeau District, which is thus afforded satisfactory transportation facilities, may now be expected to become an important contributor to the mineral production of the Province. The district is unquestionably the richest silver-lead camp in British Columbia, while in one locality free milling gold quartz of exceptionally high grade character has been discovered. None of the mines have yet been proved at great depth, but all indications point to the permanence and continuity of the deposits. In the last few weeks probably on account of the more favourable conditions, consequent upon the opening up of the district by railway communication, a large number of mining transactions are reported to have been consummated, and in the next few months a large amount of capital will undoubtedly be expended in the exploitation of the many exceedingly promising claims and prospects, in the vicinities of Trout Lake, Ferguson and Fish River.

ROSSLAND ORES AND THE ELMORE PROCESS.

AT a public function at Rossland this month, Mr. Mackenzie, manager of the Le Roi mine, in the course of an interesting speech, pointed out that probably the longevity and future prosperity of the Rossland District now depended on the success or failure of the application of some new process of concentration to the ores of Rossland. The Le Roi mine, he remarked, with its large bodies of low grade ores containing an excess of silica and an insufficiency of copper for successful and profitable smelting, exemplifies the need of a new and cheap method of extracting the metal values from the ore. But owing to the brittle character of the chalcopryite in the ore, other concentration has not been found applicable. Mr. Mackenzie, however, believed that by the utilizing the new Elmore process of concentrating mineral values from the ores by means of oil, a solution to the problem would be found. Thus, he shows that the total cost of mining and delivering ore on cars during April was \$2.62 per ton. This includes all charges, with exception of depreciation of plant. Out of the total product mined one-fifth was sorted out and thrown into the second-class dump, while the remaining four-fifths had to bear all the mining charges and costs of sorting this material, which is worthless under present methods of treatment. If the oil process were successfully applied, however, instead of only four-fifths of the mine output being treated, the whole would