

instructions have been issued to A. I. Goodell, superintendent of the smelter, to commence removing the machinery and dismantling the plant, notably to ship one of the large blowers to the Trail smelter. John H. Mackenzie, acting general manager of the Le Roi Mining Co., and A. I. Goodell, smelter manager, are joined as defendants.

"The principle laid down by the Department of Lands and Mines, that prospectors must be able to point out valuable minerals 'in place' before being permitted to record their claims, is a sound one," observes the *Toronto Globe*. "There has been too much locking up of land by prospectors on mere speculation. We are entering into a large new region, and in its exploitation the public interest in its natural resources must be kept constantly in view." This theory is sound enough, but if Ontario shall succeed in carrying it out in actual practice it will be more diligent in its endeavours to conserve the "public interest" in this direction than has been, or is, British Columbia, for in this province the government seldom, if ever, attempts to ascertain whether the statements made in the affidavits of those recording mineral locations are true or false. Similarly, affidavits concerning the performance of assessment work are usually accepted without question, notwithstanding that the practice of false swearing in this connection is, in most mining camps in the province, known to be common. As a rule the recording fees are accepted without question, for it is revenue that is required—the public may look after its own interests. In this respect, though, the present government is neither better nor worse than were its predecessors.

The customary extravagant statements about the season's yield of gold in Atlin, Yukon and Alaskan gold fields have, during several recent weeks, been published with the object of conveying the impression that much better general results have been, and are being achieved this season than last. The crop of misstatements on this subject is an annual one, yet there always seem to be people ready to be gulled by these airy flights of imagination which make pleasant enough reading for those who are credulous, or ignorant, or both. What specially favourable conditions have been experienced this season to nearly double Atlin's total recovery in 1904 are not stated. Official figures show that Atlin Lake division produced \$530,000 last year; the public has lately been informed that its yield will reach \$1,000,000 this year, but when the actual recovery shall be ascertained it will most likely be found to show little, if any, increase over last year's total. As to the Yukon, there is good reason to look for a much lower total production in that country than last year's estimated yield of \$10,337,000. From information we believe to be dependable we think the decrease will be more than \$2,000,000 in the Yukon, where lack of water has made the season a short and generally disappointing one. Similarly, in Alaska conditions have not been favourable, so we

are informed. Summing up the position, as stated to us by competent observers lately returned from the north, we think it probable the total yield of gold from Atlin, Yukon and Alaska, for 1905 will be considerably less than published estimates have indicated.

Some months ago we called attention to the fact that British Columbian mining news the *San Francisco Mining and Scientific Press* was publishing was not appearing under the head "Canada." With prompt courtesy the correction we suggested was made and thereafter the sub-head "British Columbia" was placed under its proper heading. In the hope that the *Daily Mining Record*, of Denver, Colorado, will similarly make it plain in its General Mining News columns that certain places it mentions are in Canada, and not continue to place them under the incorrect and misleading "Alaska-Northwest Territory" head, we respectfully request its attention to its shortcomings in the same direction. In its issue of September 9, for instance, there are three sub-heads under the Alaska-Northwest Territory heading, viz., "Phoenix, B.C.," "Dawson," and "Vancouver, B.C." Not one of these three places is in either Alaska or the Northwest Territory, not, at least, as we in western Canada understand the position. The *Daily Mining Record*, though, is usually too mixed in its British Columbian geography, to admit of a hope being entertained of any approach to accuracy in this respect. A newspaper which purports to receive "special" despatches from Phoenix concerning Sloean and East Kootenay silver-lead mines, from Vancouver concerning Phoenix mines, and from Ladysmith relative to mines situated anywhere and everywhere but on Vancouver Island, is so hopelessly at sea as to make it altogether unlikely it will attain to even approximate correctness. Yet it is not too much to ask that it substitute the heading "Canada" for "Alaska" when publishing news from British Columbia and Yukon Territory, and we trust this change will be promptly made, so that the Dominion may receive its due in this connection.

Last June the *MINING RECORD* had the pleasure of publishing the unsolicited favourable testimony of Dr. H. S. Poole, F.R.S.C., of Halifax, Nova Scotia, (who was at that time in British Columbia for the purpose of obtaining for the Geological Survey Department of Canada information relative to the coal fields of Vancouver Island), concerning the comparatively early date of publication of the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia, and to express the opinion that no report of similar nature and scope is published earlier in Canada, the United States, or Australia. Additional and voluntary testimony in the same direction has just been received from Mr. Horace J. Stevens, of Houghton, Michigan, U.S.A., whose annual work *The Copper Handbook*, is recognised as one of the most valuable and exhaustive publications on its subject extant. Mr. Stevens' letter follows: