coal supply and thereby closing down the smelters of West Kootenay and shutting down all the quartz mines, which will throw thousands of our fellow workmen out of employment and practically stop the wheels of industry. Realizing all this, the employees of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company have done everything in their power during these months that they have been working under protest to get the company to adjust their grievances without a strike.

The foregoing represents as near as possible the questions in dispute and we think any fair-minded person will conclude that the grievances of the miners are by no means all imaginary. It is, for example, an abominable system where a man may obtain a favoured position in a mine and so earn a very large wage, while another equally competent can only make a pittance by being obliged to work in a less favoured spot. Meanwhile, the strike at Fernie has demoralized the metal mining industry in the whole of Southern British Columbia, and unless steps are taken to prevent the recurrence of these continual labour troubles, we can never look forward to a period of permanent prosperity. The public should be informed at once who is really responsible for the present calamitous state of affairs.

CANADIAN LEAD AND LEAD TARIFF.

THE Canadian Smelting Works at Trail have installed an electrolytic lead refining plant, which is now in successful operation, and as the process has proved to be more economical than the old zinc desilverisation process universally used in the United States, and to a large extent in Europe, this electrolytic refinery will immediately be enlarged to handle the bullion (lead, silver and gold) output of Canada. Unfortunately the present output of bullion in British Columbia is not sufficient to enable any refinery to earn the full amount of the Government bounty, namely, $5.00 per ton on 20,000 tons of refined lead per year. This bounty cannot strictly be considered in the same light as a protection upon lead, as it was mainly for the purpose of offsetting an indirect bounty upon refining in the United States amounting to something over $3.00 per ton of lead produced. The lead smelting and refining industries now having been established, furnishing competition in the purchase of lead ores, it now remains with the Government to secure for the lead miner the home market for the sale of his lead at prices which will enable him to make a profit upon the large amounts of money expended in lead mining in British Columbia and elsewhere, and also to secure for Canada an industry which may develop into an extremely large and important one, namely the corroding of lead, producing white lead, red lead, litharge orange, etc.

The present injustice of the Canadian tariff, so far as the lead miner is concerned, is due to the fact that he pays for practically everything which he purchases on the basis of 25 per cent. to 35 per cent. duty, whereas in the sale of his product, which from his standpoint is a manufactured or finished product, there is but 15 per cent. protection less the differential of one-third, making a net of 10 per cent. or approximately $5.00 per ton of lead. On white lead, which represents the main consumption of pig lead, the protection is but 5 per cent. less a third, making 3 1-3 per cent. net, or approximately $2.00 per ton, in other words, not only has he far less protection in the sale of his product than he has upon the articles which he must purchase, but in the case of his purchases the differential duty is not effective, the prices being made practically by the United States, whereas in the sale of his product the differential of one-third is effective and fixes his selling price.

It is interesting to compare the protection accorded Idaho miners working under similar conditions and on practically the same general mineral deposits as in British Columbia, and it will be noticed that the British Columbia miner has a protection upon his pig lead of $5.00 per ton, while the United States miner has a protection of 2 1-8 cents per pound, or $42.50 per ton, a net protection in favour of the United States miner of $37.50. In the case of white lead, which takes the greatest amount of the lead production, the comparison is worse, the United States protection being 2 7-8 cents per pound, or $57.50, while the Canadian protection is only about $2.00 per ton, making a net difference in favour of the United States miner of about $55.50 per ton of white lead. The relative duties, therefore, on pig lead between the United States and Canada, are:—

United States	$42 50
Canada	5 00
In favour of the United States miner	$37 50

which amounts to $18.00 or $20.00 per ton of lead ore containing from 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. in lead.

To be entirely fair to the B. C. producer of lead, as well as others who have invested large amounts in that country in its development, it would be no more than fair to start upon a basis of charging 2 cents per pound duty upon pig lead and 3 cents per pound duty upon white lead, the other lead industries consuming lead or white lead to receive a protection over and above these figures an amount equal to their present protection. Duties of this kind would immediately have the effect of stimulating mining in British Columbia, increasing its smelting and refining industries to a great extent, being the means of establishing an entirely new industry, that of the corroding of lead in Canada, and would otherwise directly and indirectly give employment to a large number of men and the employment of a greatly increased amount of capital. This would be a marked contrast to the present state of affairs, when British Columbia producers of lead have now large quantities of pig lead on hand which they are unable to dispose of at several dollars per ton less than a London price, which is only about $48.00 per short ton, while Mexican bullion, the product of Mexican smelters and Mexican mines, is being refined and corroded in bond in New York and vicinity, being shipped into Canada in the form of white lead.

The Canadian producer of pig lead can now dispose of but 3,000 to 4,000 tons of pig lead in Canada, due