

gross exaggerations sometimes published and to which the general public has much stronger grounds to take exception.

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Doubtless some of the Boards of Trade of the districts in the Province the British delegates to the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, to be held in Montreal next August, are expected to visit before their return to Great Britain, are already alive to the importance of placing before the visitors facts and figures relative to the more prominent industries of their respective districts. Too much stress, however, cannot be laid on the advisability of full advantage being taken of this opportunity to properly impress these influential men with the extent and value of the natural resources of the Province, and the many openings there are in it for the employment of capital in undertakings that give promise of yielding a profitable return. The mining sections in particular will do well to afford the visitors every facility for obtaining a knowledge of the extent of the enormous mineral resources of their respective districts. In East Kootenay, coal and silver-lead; in West Kootenay, the silver-lead of the Slocan and the gold and copper of Nelson, Ymir and Rossland; in the Boundary, the astonishingly large bodies of copper ore, together with the exceptional facilities for mining and smelting at costs so low as to be almost beyond belief among those unused to the existence of such favourable conditions; and on Vancouver and Texada Islands, the coal and copper mines, and the valuable iron ore deposits which here, as well as in other parts of the Province, are awaiting development and utilization—all these important mineral resources should be made the most of. It is known that among the visitors will be some representing men who have already invested money in British Columbia enterprises, whilst others will be on the look out for suitable openings for the employment of capital backed by active energy and enterprise. It is therefore especially desirable that thoroughly dependable information supplemented by statistics and maps shall be readily accessible, and that the visitors be made to recognize that the Province has other attractions to offer than its magnificent scenery and enjoyable climate; that it has much mineral wealth that may be turned to profitable account, with, in places, tremendous water power available for the operation of machinery, and, in others, immense coal deposits to lessen the cost of the reduction of ores. Few, if any, of the delegates are likely to visit the little-developed Similkameen, the old-time famous placer gold fields of Cariboo and other parts, or even Atlin and the Yukon, now important contributors to the gold yield

of the West, yet should they also be fully informed as to these. Facts, incontrovertible facts, are what should be placed before them, whether concerning the great mineral resources of the Province or of its resources in its lumbering and fishing industries, and the sooner such responsible bodies as the Boards of Trade of the districts to be visited set about getting these together in effective and handy form the better, both for the convenience of the visitors and lasting benefit of the Province.

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The *Nelson Daily News* states that a determined effort is being made to prove that Canadian smelters treating silver-lead ores are unfair to the Canadian silver-lead mine owners, and that, strangely enough, the attacks upon these smelters emanate from the chief centres of the silver-lead mining industry in the Slocan. Further, it expresses the opinion that since the newspapers devoting considerable attention to this matter depend for their prosperity upon the welfare of the silver-lead mining industry it seems unreasonable to assume that they would adversely criticize these smelters unless they felt assured that in doing so they were acting in the best interests of that industry. Mr. J. L. Parker, manager of the North Star mine, an important silver-lead property situate in East Kootenay, defends the home smelters and urges that Canadian mine owners give them more general support by shipping their ore to them instead of to foreign smelters. He quotes figures to show that even at times when they had opportunity to "play the cinch game, by reason of the smelters of the American lead trust having declined to accept British Columbia silver-lead ores for treatment, the home smelters not only did not force the local mine-owners to pay more for treating their ores, as they might easily have required them to do, but they made reductions and so shared with them the advantage gained from the bonus on refined lead granted by the Federal Government. He asks what would these working silver-lead mines in Canada have done during the years 1901-02, when the lead trust was obtaining enough ore from its own mines and "practically left us to our fate," but for the home smelters? and then urges mine owners to keep the latter supplied with sufficient ore to obviate the frequently-recurring necessity of blowing out the smelters' furnaces for lack of ore, the maintenance of a regular and ample supply being the most effective means of securing lower treatment charges. On the whole Mr. Parker makes a strong plea in behalf of the home smelters, but the *Daily News* seems to indicate the best way of arriving at the facts of the position when it sums up its review of the controversy in the