

the smelting industry of Vancouver Island. With larger works, abundant capital, and lower labour and other costs, the management of the Tacoma establishment has generally been able to underbid the local smelters, with the result that for more than a year the Crofton works have been idle, and those at Ladysmith never had a sufficiently large ore supply to admit of their being kept running without monthly interruptions of from a week to three weeks. With the opening up of the enormous ore bodies occurring at the Britannia mines, Howe Sound, now in active progress, and the extensive equipment of that property with mine and concentrating plant, and adequate transportation to tide water and shipping facilities, the situation has improved to a marked degree. It has been further strengthened by the acquisition of the Crofton smelter by the capitalists controlling the Britannia mine, and now it is intended to add to the equipment of those reduction works and so extend their treatment facilities as to place them in a position to successfully compete for the smelting business of the coast north of Puget Sound. With ample capital available for this purpose, there remained but one other essential to provide for, viz., the securing for the position of manager of just such a man as Mr. Kiddie has during his seven years' active connection with local mining and smelting industries unmistakably proved himself to be. We may, then, look forward with confidence to the future of the smelting industry on Vancouver Island, the more so since available ore supplies from northern British Columbia, Yukon Territory and S. E. Alaska are gradually increasing in quantity.

Mr. Kiddie's chemical and metallurgical experience has extended over many years. From 1872 to 1882 he was with first the Bede Metal and Chemical Co., of Hebburn-on-Tyne, England, and then with the Tharsis Sulphur & Copper Co., of Glasgow, Scotland, owning mines in Spain, situated west of the Rio Tinto. In 1882 he entered the service of the Orford Copper Co., of New York, and remained with that company until 1888. Then he had two years at Mr. Clarke's, at copper smelting in New Mexico, and after that three years at the London mine, Park City, Colorado. From 1894 to 1898 he was with the Orford Co. which, in addition to treating copper ores and mattes, refines nickel ores and mattes from New Caledonia and Canada. In 1898 he came to British Columbia, to the Van Anda property on Texada Island, where, in 1899, he built a smelter. Later, he was manager there for the bondholders, and afterwards remained with the company that took over the property under option of purchase. In 1902 he was engaged by Mr. Clermont Livingston, general manager for the Tye Copper Co., to design and erect a smelter for that company, since which time he has been at Ladysmith, with results already mentioned. His resignation has been sent to London, and it is expected that the directors of the Tye Copper Co. will at once appoint a successor, so that he may, without unnecessary delay enter upon his new duties at Crofton.

HASTINGS (BRITISH COLUMBIA) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LTD.

THE declaration of a dividend by the Hastings (British Columbia) Exploration Syndicate.

Ltd., an English mining company operating in the Ymir district of this province, with Mr. Leslie Hill, M.E., of Nelson, as consulting engineer and manager, is a matter for congratulation, not so much on account of the amount of profits available for distribution among stockholders, for this was not large, though even a small dividend is an encouragement to further enterprise, but from the fact that Mr. Hill has transformed a company operating at a loss into one that from the time he took charge of its affairs first steadily overtook accumulated arrears until they were entirely wiped out, and next gradually increased its cash surplus until a sufficient sum was in hand to admit of a division with prudence of about half the amount among the stockholders in the company. Further, Mr. Hill, whose conservatism is well known, was able in his annual report, extracts from which are printed elsewhere in this issue, to state that "there is more ore now exposed than at any previous time during my management, and there is a large block of ground in which it would be reasonable to expect development to find fresh ore shoots."

Mr. Hill took charge of the company's Arlington mine and mill, at Erie, Ymir district, in the spring of 1902. His predecessor had reported the mine worked out and, as it had been gutted, it certainly appeared as if there was nothing to do but abandon it. Previous to March, 1901, a large amount of development work had been done and the ore body opened up and its limits apparently determined. All the ore, which constituted a much larger body than any found for some time subsequently, had been stoped: everything that appeared rich enough to put through the mill had been gouged out, until it was not practicable to longer keep the mill running. Mr. Hill quickly decided that the ore was not of a character suitable for profitable milling and concentration, so he closed the mill down, and afterwards sent to the Hall Mines Co's smelter the comparatively small quantity of ore he found in the course of further development. The wisdom of this course and the widely different results Mr. Hill obtained can be briefly summed up as follows: During fifteen months ended May 31, 1902, the net smelter value of returns from 2,322.7 tons of ore and concentrates treated and shipped, was \$93,804.22, and boarding house profits, \$1,979.50: total, \$95,783.72. Against this there were mining and shipping costs, \$83,589.55, and expenditure on other account, \$33,199.97: total, \$116,789.52. The operations for this period, therefore, showed a deficit of \$21,005.80. During the following twelve months with Mr. Hill in charge, there was made a net profit over mine cost of \$16,082.58. The total costs of mining, milling and shipping in the former case were at the rate of \$35.80 per ton produced, while Mr. Hill's costs, with smelting substituted for milling, were \$23.55 per ton—a difference of \$12.25 per ton in favour