

on others—not all, for there are leaseholds being actively worked—there is, as stated, much ground lying unworked. As far as practicable this very undesirable state of affairs should be promptly remedied.

With characteristic inaccuracy the *Rosland Miner* recently made the statement that the Great Northern Mines owns most of the valuable claims in the Poplar Creek district. While certain individuals connected with that company are in the habit of talking at large, as it were, we hardly think it probable they would pay the Poplar Creek district such a left-handed compliment as is contained in that assertion, seeing that it has been repeatedly stated by others interested in the camp that there are a number of other properties giving promise of developing into valuable mines. If, however, this almost exclusive claim has been made, local claim-owners may well say "save us from our friends" when professed friends are so reckless as to make and publish such a statement, which surely is not borne out by facts. We have no good reason for inclining to the belief that the Great Northern Mines holds, in the Lucky Jack and Swede groups, valuable as they are generally believed to be, anything approaching a monopoly of the valuable properties of the Poplar district. Information from disinterested and reliable sources has been made public from time to time that indicates the probabilities of the occurrence of deposits of valuable mineral outside the charmed zone controlled by the Great Northern Mines, and 'tis only fair to the Poplar camp to give wide publicity to this fact. There are, though, essentials to full confidence in the camp becoming wide-spread, and one of these was lately pointed out by the *Nelson Daily News* in the following timely comment: "Good news continues to come in from the Poplar camp which indicates that the camp is even better than was expected. What is wanted there now is to make a showing in the way of production. With a couple of stamp mills in operation to which the mine owners could bring their ores for reduction the capabilities of the camp could be demonstrated, in a practical way. Once this was done there would be no question of capital to develop the several meritorious properties which are there. It is up to those interested in Poplar to do something in this direction."

We are not aware whether or not the attention of the representative of the Lanyon Zinc Company, of Iola, Kansas, who last month returned from a visit to the Quatsino Sound district, on the north-west coast of Vancouver Island, was attracted either directly or indirectly, to the zinc possibilities of that region by the publication in the Report of the Minister of Mines for 1903 of the report of the Provincial Assayer, who mentioned the occurrence on the Peerless mineral claim of "an ore body 30 feet wide of nearly solid zinc blende," but we call attention to the suggestive fact that within three months of the publication of that report the particular property mentioned in con-

nection with the occurrence of zinc ore in that region has been visited by one whose especial business it is to keep his principals advised as to the zinc resources of this Province. The exploitation of the zinc ore showings of Quatsino is stated to be a probable outcome of that visit, and while in any case it will be a matter for general congratulation to have such a desirable result achieved, it would doubtless be a source of much satisfaction to the Department of Mines to have definite assurance that it contributed to the bringing about of this result by directing attention to the occurrence of zinc ore in the district. Whilst there should be little doubt that the official reports published by the Department really do lead to good results from time to time, notwithstanding the tendency occasionally displayed to question their usefulness, in the nature of things it is not easy to point out specific instances wherein they have done good service, hence this desire to give credit in one case in which it appears to be merited.

We publish this month an abstract from a paper on Gold-Saving on Dredges in New Zealand, which deals with the latest improvements suggested by experience in that country. The article is illustrated by a block, kindly lent by the Department of Mines of this Province, which will serve to give those of our readers who are interested in this subject a general idea of the nature of modern gold-saving appliances used in New Zealand, in which country dredge-mining is an important branch of the mining industry. The Minister of Mines for New Zealand last year in the course of his annual statement to Parliament relative to the growth of the mining industry of that colony, gave the following particulars of dredge-mining: "The total number of dredges, according to the returns to the 31st December last, is as follows: Working, 201; standing, 52; building, 23; under removal, 14; wrecked, 2; total, 292. This shows an increase of 18 working dredges as compared with those actually employed at the end of 1901. The industry may be said to have fairly settled down after the excitement of the 'boom' period, and steady returns can reasonably be expected from this branch of mining for a considerable time to come. In some instances dredges were placed on claims which were more suitable to the method of hydraulic mining, and have been superseded by the latter system. In others it was found that much stronger machinery was required to work the tight wash frequently met with than is necessary for the more free gravels, and the experience so gained should be of value in the future design and construction of dredges intended for such wash. The general design of dredges has been fairly well settled by experience, but improvements in the details of working arrangements, and in respect to the methods of saving fine gold continue to be made from time to time." Of the 7,591 alluvial or placer miners employed in the colony during the year under notice more than one-fifth were employed on dredges, the majority of which require seven or eight men each