

\$108,000 had been earned in sixty days. It now transpires that nothing like this amount was earned; in fact recent developments show that during the first two months of the current year the earnings were next to nothing. The fault does not rest with the mine, nor is the smelter to be blamed. On an output of something like 20,000 tons a month the run of the mine was indiscriminately sent to Northport. Faulty sampling at the mine was the basis of the office estimate that created the reported profit, but the close check of Manager Wilson at the smelter proved it far from correct. The sampling at the mine is nothing short of a scandal, but the work at the smelter is above both reproach and suspicion. It is said that Mr. Wilson is on record in Rossland as well as in London, showing that his assays made on the receipt of the ore tally with the result of the smelter run."

But this explanation does not explain the points we have suggested, namely (1) how the discrepancy between the mine and smelter assay values, respectively, was not immediately discovered, (2) how it was that the Directors apparently failed to note the very marked difference between the estimates received from the Rossland office and the values actually recovered at the smelter, and (3) if this difference was noted why the shareholders were permitted to remain under the impression that comparatively large profits were being earned.

It is stated that Mr. Charles Sweeney, a well known Coeur D'Alene miner, has by an arrangement recently concluded, secured a controlling interest in the Sullivan mine, in East Kootenay. The property itself is, we believe, a valuable one, and under tolerably efficient management should be capable of becoming a profit-earning concern. Under Mr. Sweeney's direction—if the reputation he enjoys does not belie him—it is unlikely that the idiotic mismanagement of the past will be repeated. We should not be astonished if, at his instance, the Marysville smelter is reconstructed on something like approved modern lines. It is even possible that the calciner building of "unique and original design" may be demolished or utilized for (say) some homely agricultural purpose.

At the meeting in Nelson in May, the executive committee of the Provincial Mining Association passed a resolution endorsing the appeal made to the Dominion Government by the Associated Silver-Lead Mines, and agreed to by the Canadian smelters, "That the bounty on lead ore be paid for one year on any lead shipped out of Canada after the lead smelters had been supplied with all the ore they require." In this instance the Mining Association has merely followed the line adopted by the Kootenay Associated Boards of Trade by "backing" the request of a body of men who should know better than any outsiders what they require of the Government in order that the industry in which they are engaged should prosper. The mine-owners had previously convinced the home smelters that they would lose nothing by agreeing to the pro-

posal and as the smelters had raised no objection, it was nobody else's business to oppose a plan which at any rate meant the working of more mines and the employment of a greater number of men in the silver-lead districts of the two Kootenays during the next twelve months. The only opposition of which we have knowledge has come from a Mr. Fernau, who represented himself as ready and able, provided he received sufficient encouragement, to establish a lead smelter at Fernie or other suitable centre, and it is understood that the rate he suggested would be charged for treating both silver-lead and zinc-bearing ores was extremely low. However, Mr. Fernau must certainly have failed to convince Kootenay mine-owners of his bona fides, for none of them appear to have taken him or his proposals seriously.

#### RESULTS OF SMELTING AT LADYSMITH.

THE following absolute average figures of the results of work at the Tyee Copper Company's smelter, Ladysmith, during six months to the close of April last, were supplied by the manager, Mr. Thos. Kiddie, for publication in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines:

"During the last six months the furnace was in blast 123 days of 24 hours each, an average of 20 days per month, and smelted 30,703 tons of material, of which 28,290 tons were ore, making a daily average of 249.6 tons of material or 230 tons of ore per day, from which we shipped in the form of matte, 2,275,997 pounds of copper, 72,207.8 ounces of silver, and 4,592.18 ounces of gold. A general analysis of the burnt ore used during this period is as follows:

Iron . . . . .	11.45 per cent.
Silica . . . . .	19.36 "
Zinc . . . . .	6.97 "
Barium sulphate . . . . .	38.87 "
Sulphur (in sulphides) . . . . .	6.56 "

while the general analysis of the slags produced during this period, which also includes custom ores, was as follows:—

Copper . . . . .	.37 per cent.
Gold . . . . .	Trace.
Silver . . . . .	.12 oz. per ton.
Iron oxide . . . . .	17.68 per cent.
Zinc oxide . . . . .	6.44 "
Barium oxide . . . . .	26.16 "
Calcium oxide . . . . .	7.92 "
Silica . . . . .	33.34 "
Alumina . . . . .	10.75 "
Magnesia . . . . .	Trace.

"The improvement in the slag assays for copper over the previous year is due in part to the increased settling capacity of the receivers at the furnace; in part to a reduction in the specific gravity in the slags by the admixture of suitable fluxing ores, which were not procurable in the earlier stages of our operations; in part to the lesser amount of ZnO in the slags, as a result of the admixture of other ores referred to;