

many other details which in such a report would be discussed. Again for the engineer in charge of operations photography offers the same aid—only perhaps more so. Only the other day the writer was shown by a well-known consulting engineer in Vancouver a very remarkable report photographically illustrated, which is issued regularly to the directors in serial form. The first issue made its appearance about a year ago, and contained three or four photographs showing Nature in her virgin garb, that is, as we are accustomed to view her in the pine-clad mountain solitudes of the Pacific slope. Then in subsequent numbers a change began to be apparent. Through that seemingly impassable swamp a corduroy road is built, the photograph showing the mode of construction: then what in an earlier picture had been represented as an impenetrable forest of cedar and pine, in a later view of the same locality these trees have disappeared, and in their place is a great clearing through which a tramway conveying supplies has been built. And so on, as the work progresses, so are photographs taken: the arrival of machinery, its installation; the laying of foundations for a building, the completion of the structure; early beginnings of dam-building, and behold, a few weeks later is an actual record of the finished dam doing the duty for which it was built. The report already makes a bulky volume, and the author will not for two years yet be able to write "finis" thereto. It is meanwhile one of the most interesting of "serials," and none the less because three-fourths of its bulk consists of photographs—technically excellent bromides, most tastefully mounted and notwithstanding the strictly utilitarian purpose for which the views were taken, not a few of them possess distinctly pictorial characteristics. In displaying this work, of which our friend the engineer is not a little proud, he remarked, that as a very busy man he found photography a great time saver. He no longer requires to write very long-winded reports in order that the directors of his company in England may fully understand the situation, the reason for erecting a building here, or running a pipe-line there—with a few explanatory notes the photographs answer that purpose, or rather they go one better, for without an actual knowledge of the ground, it is not always easy to follow the whys and wherefores, whereas the views make all clear.

In Mr. Lewis' article to which we have referred, much stress is laid on the necessity of securing strong, crisp negatives in geological record work. Isochromatic plates, a small stop, exact focussing and the exactly correct exposure are suggested as essentials, and in respect to the last mentioned requisite we would strongly recommend the use of an actinometer as minimizing the danger of failures from incorrect timing. Mr. Lewis also makes a sensible suggestion in that it is always advisable in photographing geological sections to include some figure or give a scale which will serve as an indicator of the actual size.

The "Coal Mines Act," C. A. 1888, c. 83, s. 1. or "An Act to Encourage Coal Mining," contains the following important section:—

12. Notwithstanding anything in any Act contained, it shall be lawful to grant licenses to prospect for coal over reserved lands, but such licenses shall be subject to such restrictions, conditions and regulations as may be imposed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. 1891, c. 15, s. 16.

If this section means anything it means that there is nothing to prevent the location of and the granting of title to coal lands on Government reserves, except under a condition which applies only to surface rights. The phrase "it shall be lawful" is interpreted by the courts as signifying "must," that being the judgment of Lord Cairns in a celebrated case of *Julius v. the Bishop of Oxford*. Thus the only possible ambiguity of wording in the clause is removed. The late Government, however, thought fit to adopt the extraordinary and quite inexcusable course of refusing absolutely to accept applications in respect to coal prospecting licenses for lands located in certain reserved areas in East Kootenay, which it was proposed should be granted to the C. P. R. as part of the C. & W. subsidy in lieu of relatively worthless lands through which their railway is built. It has been contended by some that the Government are not only justified but well advised in reserving a portion of the valuable East Kootenay areas in which coal is known to largely occur, in order that the means would not be lacking to hold in check or successfully combat any attempt of the Crow's Nest Pass Company to take undue advantage of its monopolistic opportunities to discriminate unfairly against British Columbian consumers. But while there is much to be said in favour of this contention, there is also always a right and a wrong way of carrying out a policy on these lines if contemplated, and surely it does not look well, to say the least, to find the Legislature of the country practically acquiescing in a violation of the statutes, which in this case they certainly appear to have done. The Act from which we have quoted may not be a good Act; as a matter of fact it is not. It might be advantageously amended in many important particulars. The area, for example, that may be acquired under it is a great deal too large, more especially as regards the location of petroleum lands. But all that is beside the point. The Act is on the statute books, and until it is changed it is the law of the land, and should be observed as such. We submit that those who have complied with the requirements and applied in perfect good faith for licenses to prospect for coal and petroleum in the East Kootenay reserves have every right to expect and demand that satisfactory title be granted them, subject only to such restrictions as the Lieutenant-Governor in council has the authority to impose.

It appears, meanwhile, that a large proportion of those applying for coal lands in these areas are not bona fide prospectors, but Spokane speculators and brokers, who see here a magnificent opportunity to enrich themselves at a modicum of difficulty or risk. It is urged that this is in itself a sufficient reason for the reservation of the lands in question. Had the Legislature, looking at the matter from this point of view, passed a special Act to prevent the acquisition of these