

panies being added, and the information regarding those hitherto dealt with, materially augmented. One of the most valuable features is the series of maps, the fact that they are without fold increasing their usefulness. Mr. Mabson recently visited South Africa on behalf of the *Statist*, and whilst there he was able to glean much valuable information for the present edition,—information indeed which largely anticipated a number of official reports which have been issued since the book went to press. It is claimed on behalf of "Mines of the Transvaal" that it is absolutely indispensable to all interested in Transvaal gold mining, and this claim is well sustained. The book is absolutely up to date, and it deals comprehensively, completely and accurately with a subject of paramount importance to British and continental investors. Those only conversant with the enormous amount of labour involved in the compilation of a statistical work of this kind can fully appreciate its time-saving merits, and the editor is to be congratulated upon such a satisfactory termination to his labours. The book should be on the office desk of every mining man.

#### THE DEATH OF A PIONEER MINER.

**F**EW of the Cariboo pioneers anywhere in British Columbia, remarks the *Ashcroft Journal*, but will remember Sam Montgomery, who died in the Barkerville hospital on June 1st after quite a long illness. He was born at Inniskillen, Ireland, in 1814, and was thus in his 90th year. Coming to Cariboo in 1861, most of his life was spent at sea. In 1858 he joined the rush to the Fraser River, coming from California, where he had mined in the early '50's. He will be remembered long by his Cariboo friends for his honesty and ability to work at his advanced age. Montgomery was a successful miner, having made lots of money and spent it. His early mining in Cariboo was done on Nelson and Lightning Creeks. He never ceased prospecting and when 83 years of age sank a shaft 53 feet and ran a tunnel from the bottom 60 feet, entirely without assistance. Two years ago, when 88 years old, he sank the first 33 feet of the Montgomery shaft alone, and but for a large boulder, too big for him to handle, he would have completed the work without help. From this claim he had as his share several thousand dollars, some of which he had at his death.

Sam Montgomery was a prospector in all that the word implies. Like most men who spend their lives in prospecting for minerals, he had formed certain ideas relating to where best to locate, but unlike many he seemed to have formed on the whole pretty correct ideas. Certainly he made some misses, but he has to his credit many strikes.

#### THE IRON RESOURCES OF THE WEST COAST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

To the Editor:

My attention has been drawn to an article entitled "A Desolate Pacific Region," which appeared in the *New York Sun* of the 22nd ult., and originally published in the *Portland Oregonian*. There is little doubt the writer of this article is a well informed man, or rather he is possessed of much varied and curious information. Thus he refers to the West Coast to be the most untamed spot west of Mississippi River, and the Indians are described as "red devils." He further states that "the SS. Queen City, under the command of Captain Townsend, has been sailing up the West Coast for the past year and the respectable white traders and missionaries who now lead lonely lives among the Red Indians, having no more timber to work on are about to return to civilization." I venture to think meanwhile that our mine-owners and prospectors have little need of this gentleman's sympathy, nevertheless he offers it. I quote his words: In justice to a scattering few hard working prospectors and mine owners now trying to discover what the West Coast of Vancouver Island was made for, the above statement should perhaps be qualified. There are numerous mines along the West Coast and several hundred

thousand good American dollars have been lost forever in an endeavour to make producers of them. One of the finest of these Col. Sellar's propositions was largely financed by Portland people. It is a copper mine located on one of the numerous offshoots of Barclay Sound. The wharf buildings and bucket tramway are all in excellent condition, but the mine is oreless and the promoter is in the penitentiary."

Again our sympathetic friend remarks "that in this untamed spot time has stood still for more than a hundred years, and, owing to the topography of the country there is little likelihood of advancement in the next century. I would like to draw this writer's attention to the fact that it is due to the mismanagement of the Portland company's mine, to which he refers, that this locality has been kept in the background, and without considering the gold, silver and copper resources of the West Coast of Vancouver Island, in several localities occur most valuable deposits of high grade bessemer iron ores, and an eminent metallurgist who has spent several years examining the iron ore deposits in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon has emphatically asserted that the West Coast districts are capable of supplying more commercial iron ore than all the other Pacific Coast districts combined. So far as the Port Renfrew district is concerned I know that the deposits are large and the ore of excellent quality, and these one day will be profitably operated. All we on the West Coast require is a fair field and no favours, and we shall not be afraid of the result.

J. B. ATKINSON.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Report on the Great Landslide at Frank, Alta, 1903, by Messrs. R. G. McConnell and R. W. Brock, extract from Port VIII., Annual Report 1903 of the Geological Survey of Canada.

The Copper Handbook: A Manual of the Copper Industry of the World; Vol. IV. for the year 1903. Compiled and published by Horace J. Stevens, Houghton, Michigan, 1904.

The present edition of this excellent annual is a great improvement on its predecessors. The information is not only more extensive, but the compiler has taken the greatest pains to ensure its reliability. Hence we do not find in the references to our British Columbian copper mines those glaring inaccuracies to which we felt impelled to call attention in our notice of the 1903 edition. The volume is strongly and tastefully bound in cloth, and in its existing form is probably the best work of reference on copper mining, technology and trade, published.

#### PROVINCIAL MINING ASSOCIATION.

**M**R. JOHN KEEN, president of the Provincial Mining Association, last month made arrangements with Dr.

W. A. Hendryx, of Spokane, to treat by his electrocyanide process a few samples of schist containing arsenical iron and carrying gold, so as to determine whether or not these schists can be treated at a profit by that process. Mr. Keen has already sent several lots of schist to Spokane free of cost to the prospectors supplying them.

The secretary of the Association has received the following reply from the widow of the late Hon. Senator Reid to the letter he sent conveying to her the resolution of sympathy with her in her recent sad bereavement in the death of her husband, passed by the Executive Committee, of which the deceased gentleman was a member up to the time of his death. Mrs. Reid wrote: "Will you convey my grateful thanks to the Executive Committee of the Provincial Mining Association for their kind sympathy with me in my sad loss. The Association has lost a faithful and interested friend. Although not successful in his mining enterprises Mr. Reid never lost faith in the future of British Columbia as a mineral country."

The following correspondence is published for the information of all interested:

From the secretary of the Association to the Minister of Mines: