

equally certain that the Big Four ore did not take the first prize at St. Louis. It is also certain that the Canadian Pacific and the Great Northern are not competing for the ore of the Big Four, as it has not produced enough to compete for.

"If the Big Four, however, produces enough ore to make a decent shipment there is no doubt about the railway companies competing for it. It is high time that the systematic misrepresentations of the Big Four should cease. The methods followed by the Big Four are detrimental to this camp, and some means should be found to put an end to them."

We direct attention to a letter published elsewhere in this issue from Mr. W. G. Trethewey, of Cobalt. This letter is interesting in that it represents a point of view differing diametrically from that held in general by claim owners and others interested in the development of the Cobalt district, in respect to the policy adopted by the Ontario Government in withholding title to locations unless arbitrary conditions, in no wise specified by the "Regulations for Mining Divisions" or by the Mines Act, are fulfilled to the satisfaction of an official specially appointed to adjudicate thereon. While it is refreshing in this world to run across a really contented man (though Mr. Trethewey has every excuse for his present frame of mind in that he has large interests in two valuable Cobalt properties), at the same time we regret our inability to admit even his premises, much less his conclusions. In the opinion of at least a very considerable majority of the miners and prospectors in the district there is no set of circumstances which could justify the adoption of the autocratic and high-handed measures that have been pursued. At the same time our correspondent states the "Act has not been changed," but merely "enforced." Surely, here is a mis-statement at the start. The Act has not been changed, but it has been elaborated by Orders-in-Council to such an extent that it has become unrecognizable. What is the good of an Act of Parliament at all, if its very sense and provisions may be changed at the discretion of individuals in this fashion? Mr. Trethewey remarks that "under the present arrangement the original discoverer" is secured in his title! But this, too, is quite contrary to actual fact, (see list elsewhere of claims thrown open during past month), since the prospector after staking his ground is obliged to go and ask a policeman, beg pardon, mine inspector, the riddle: "Please, sir, when is a location not a location, and need I pull up stakes?" Of course, if the inspector is good enough to pronounce that the discovery is, in his opinion, a valuable one, then the discoverer takes high rank at once, as the "real thing," the genuine, legitimate, bona fide, honest prospector, quite innocent of any blanket(ty)-ing (blank?) intentions. It is probably true, as Mr. Trethewey suggests, that "conditions at Cobalt are unique," but then anything more unique than the mining regulations it would be impossible to conceive.

The *Iron Age*, referring to the copper industry on this continent, points out that practically all the Canadian copper, and a very large part of the Mexican product, is refined and marketed in the United States, and that a considerable share of the American exports are, therefore, really Mexican or Canadian metal in transit for the world's market. Our contemporary refers to Canadian dependence upon American metallurgical works as being striking, and proceeds to say in evidence of this that, one of the large companies of the Boundary district in British Columbia has its smelting plant across the line in Washington (*sic*), other concerns ship for future treatment either their matte or their converter bars to Puget Sound or Atlantic Coast refineries, while the greater part of the copper and nickel matte of the Sudbury district goes to the States for separation and refining. The same state of affairs exists in Mexico, the only large Mexican producer shipping direct to Europe being the Boleo, in Lower California. It is furthermore pointed out that, as the copper interests of Canada and Mexico are largely owned and controlled by American capitalists, the three countries have become practically a unit, so far as copper production is concerned. The suggestion is therefore offered that it would be more correct in presenting the statistics of United States copper exports to make allowance for these imports, and the point is illustrated by reference to the figures recently published by the Bureau of Statistics. The American exports of copper, (excluding ore, the contents of which is not known), were, for the two years ending June 30th, 1904, and June 30th, 1905, respectively, 422,595,277 lbs. and 591,362,271 lbs. of copper. The imports were, for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1904, 175,238,869 lbs., and for 1905, 190,449,406 lbs. Of this, 108,808,940 lbs. were imported from Mexico in 1903-4, while this quantity was increased to 124,743,986 lbs. in 1904-5. For the last two years the imports from British North America have averaged nearly thirty-seven million pounds of copper. At the same time, the United States export of copper (in which this Canadian and Mexican product is included) increased last year to over four hundred million pounds, or a gain of 153,556,457 lbs. in twelve months. Our contemporary remarks that such figures throw a flood of light on the tremendous development of the copper consumption of the world and explain the steady rise in values during the past year, in spite of the great expansion in production which has been, and is still, taking place in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

THE LE ROI SQUABBLE.

As we stated in a recent issue, the Le Roi amalgamation scheme has by no means failed through, as in view of the consolidation of the Blackstock and Canadian Pacific mining interests in British Columbia some of our readers were inclined to believe. As a matter of fact, that arrangement merely facilitates the carrying out of the more comprehensive plan, the consummation of which is now practically de-