

friends would hardly recognize him in such a garb. Mr. Gates seems in at least one respect to have been fully equal to the supposed necessities of the occasion when in London, for he told a characteristic after-dinner story of a Yukon ten-mile stream, Quartz Creek, which may, so he says, yield seven million ounces of gold, or the equivalent of £25,000,000. After which we can only say "next." The estimate is, however, well on a par with an item industriously circulated in the London press, which credited Mr. Macdonald, the "Klondike King" with the possession of a fortune of £27,000,000, or about seven times the aggregate gold yield of the whole Yukon—where he has made nearly all his money—to date. The story, however, doubtless, aided the successful flotation of a company formed to purchase some of the Macdonald claims in Klondike at a big price.

Among others who are returning to the Yukon this spring is the Ven Archdeacon McKay, of Donald, and formerly of the Northwest Territories. The Rev. Mr. McKay is probably the first Archdeacon on record who has become a working gold miner. He, however, resigned his archdeaconal appointment some years ago, though he has since done, and still, during part of the year, does clerical duty in the diocese of New Washington.

We are authorised to state that the announcements which have been made in the Provincial press to the effect that Mr. Campbell-Johnson has been appointed superintendent of the Queen Bess mine are entirely erroneous.

Vancouver business men are noting with regret the fact that as things are at present Winnipeg wholesalers are securing the larger proportion of the general supply orders of the Boundary mine country. Our coast and inland traders stand greatly in need of improved rail and other facilities in order to enable them better to compete for the Boundary business.

We can very cordially congratulate the Victoria Board of Trade on its recent action in having passed a resolution favouring the granting by the Federal Government of charter privileges to Mr. Corbin for the construction of the Kettle River Valley Railway. In view of the opposition of the Board last year the present endorsement of Mr. Corbin's application should carry much weight with the Railway Committee of the Dominion House, and while there can be no doubt that the C.P.R. will again bring every influence to bear in opposition to the Bill, the question is now regarded by the public from an entirely different standpoint, and there is, therefore, every reason to believe that the application will be granted during the present session.

The consolidation of the principal lead smelters in the United States, resulting in the formation of an altogether colossal corporation known as the American Smelting and Refining Company, will surely rank among the most notable industrial events of recent times. It is another sign of the fierce commercial struggle, engendered by competition, that is taking place all over the world, but especially in the United States, from which relief is sought in combines, and amalgamations. But unlike most combinations, it is authoritatively stated, that the consolidation of the

lead smelters will benefit the public rather than otherwise. Smelting charges are not to be advanced, but it is expected that the combination will obtain from the railways specially advantageous terms for the transportation of ores to their smelters, which would not be granted under other circumstance to independent smelters. Furthermore, the view is expressed that the consolidation will be able to secure an increase of possibly from three to four cents in the market price of silver; and at the same time the company expects to profit by decreasing general expenses which should follow the amalgamation of interests; and by improvements and economics in technical practice as a result of placing the knowledge and skill of the managers of all the works at the disposal of each. It is, meanwhile, reported that Mr. Nash, of the Omsted & Grant Company, and one of the principal purchasers of our Slocan galena ores, will be asked to accept the office of president of the new American Smelting and Refining Company.

The directors of the Fairview Corporation seem to be leaving no steps untaken in order to attract the attention of investors. To judge from the recent exploitation of Camp Fairview in the *Victoria Times* they are great believers in advertisement. As far as we can learn the Fairview Corporation has a very promising property in the Stemwinder mine, but we fail to find any warrant for the statement made in the *Tinhorn Company's* and *Winchester Gold Mining Company's* reports, that "it is confidently expected that the Tinhorn mine will prove one of the largest gold producers in the Province." The mill tests of Tinhorn are being hardly so satisfactory as to inspire confidence in the ultimate profitable working of this mine. It is the opinion of most of the local stock-holders that the Fairview Corporation should devote all their energies to the development of the Stemwinder mine and leave such doubtful propositions as the Tinhorn to a time when they have money to gamble with.

The report of Mr. J. H. Campbell on the Smuggler mine of Fairview would seem to condemn that property, but Mr. Campbell advises the development of two other properties belonging to the Smuggler Company, apparently believing them to be very valuable claims. These are the British Lion and Toronto mineral claims, through which a very strong well-defined ledge runs, giving values of about \$12 in gold. According to Mr. Campbell no development work is necessary on this property, which lies on a steep hillside, the ledge cutting the formation so that the ore can be quarried out and shot into waggons at the foot of the hill.

The English language, it has often been pointed out, is made exceedingly difficult for the guileless foreigner by words which, sounding almost exactly alike, have yet totally different meanings. An amusing instance of this occurred recently to a well-known gentleman whose official business it is to issue mining licenses. To him there came a youth, tall and stalwart, but evidently young. In addition to the advantages of youth and health, he possessed an accent which could only have been raised in the north of Germany or in Scandinavia.

"I was vant a licentious," he observed affably to the genial official. That gentleman sized him up and enquired what sort of a "licentious" he wanted.