

Clayoquot districts are as fine as any to be met with in other sections of the Province. But if this is the case, that outside capital should have been already invested to a much greater extent in districts such as Boundary Creek in South Yale, or even Bridge River in East Lillooet, not nearly so advantageously situated as regards shipping and other facilities is a matter for which people of Coast residence are at a loss to account, and this, together with the unfortunate mine fiascos which have from time to time occurred in the Alberni district, due too frequently to incapable management, has had the effect of discouraging those even who have heretofore been most sanguine concerning the future of lode mining on the west coast of the Island. It is, therefore, with some degree of satisfaction that while offering what we believe to be a true explanation of the past inactivity that has prevailed in Alberni district, we can at the same time show excellent grounds for believing that the outlook is now decidedly more favorable than at any previous period. The present flourishing condition of the mining industry in Rossland and the Slocan is undoubtedly due primarily to the class of trained and experienced prospectors who bred in the mining camps of the Western States, brought their intelligence and knowledge to bear in the exploration of Southern British Columbia. These men having succeeded in discovering promising mineral prospects, proceeded to develop their finds as far as their means would allow, and then in the majority of cases were able to sufficiently interest wealthy countrymen of their own to provide the necessary capital to open up the prospects and place them upon the footing of profit-yielding mines. A considerable number of mines thus developed are still in American hands, but gradually the best properties are being acquired by English companies and syndicates with larger available capital wherewith to operate upon a yet greater scale. This briefly is the history of the progress and prosperity of the West Kootenay mining industry. Year by year the returns have increased at a ratio that can only be regarded as phenomenal, and all this is in the first instance attributable to, not Canadian, but to American enterprise. The Island mining districts on the other hand have been explored, generally speaking, only in amateur fashion, by men having absolutely no mineralogical or stratigraphical knowledge; when claims have been staked out it has apparently been the object of the locator to acquire territory rather than valuable mineral, and the whole country side has been consequently tied up, the owners having had, it is to be presumed, no troublesome qualms in committing perjury when it became necessary to swear that the legal work requirements had been faithfully fulfilled. Again, as we have already mentioned, conspicuous instances of mismanagement have been responsible for the respective failures which have so unfortunately been the result of the few cases when mining has been attempted on any sort of scale both by small Victoria syndicates and the one or two more pretentious concerns promoted abroad. Under such circumstances it is surely of little wonder that this undoubtedly promising district has received so many serious set-backs, and should be so suspiciously regarded by British Columbians generally. Meanwhile, the fact that the Americans, both prospectors and speculators, are beginning to be attracted by the opportunities for successful mining offered on the West Coast, may be accepted as a most happy augury, and it is indeed already thus recognized by claim

owners and mining men themselves in these districts. Opinion on this point being well expressed by a prominent Alberni engineer, who thus writes to this journal: "We are still in the background, so far as actual mining is concerned, but our people comfort themselves with the assurance that Kootenay was in this embryonic stage for several years, until American speculators came on the scene, and carried on practical mining work, with practical results. This is our position to-day. We are pretty well through with kiteflying, and are now on with the riddling process. The indiscriminate bonding business is nearly played out. English and Scotch capitalists are sick of it, and one English company has apparently succumbed to its influence. A better system of inspection will inevitably result. The cute Yankee is with us and he is here to stay, he takes his choice of "prospects and territory" offering, and at reasonable figures. The miners have confidence in him, for though he drives a hard bargain, he means business and pays promptly." Without in any way desiring to disparage Canadian and British enterprise in the districts of the west coast of the Island and admittedly hitherto it has not been rewarded with success—although we are glad to note that at the present time more than one reputable company is now operating in these districts under properly skilled management—it is necessary nevertheless to recognize the somewhat deplorable fact that the west coast of Vancouver Island depends on the assistance of American operators for its future importance as a mining field, and that aid is at last to be accorded.

That in the interests of the country it will be found necessary to re-organize the Canadian Civil Service upon a more satisfactory system than that at present in vogue, seems to us CIVIL SERVICE extremely probable, for although IN CANADA, happily the standard of political morals is decidedly higher in this country than in the United States, so long as civil service appointments in the Dominion may be held out by politicians as rewards or bribes to their personal supporters irrespective of fitness or ability, or so long as men employed in the public service have no surer guarantee of the permanency of their positions than the possible return of the same political party to power as the result of each successive general election, then not only will the efficiency of the civil service itself be lower than it might otherwise be, but there will always be the constant menace to public interests by the opportunity thus afforded for the exercise of gross abuse of political power and the introduction of all the worst forms of favoritism. That we have been generally speaking singularly free from political vices of this description in Canada in the past may be at once thankfully admitted, but this certainly cannot be advanced as an argument in defence of our present civil service system, nor does it afford any promise for the future; indeed, while we have proudly, and at times somewhat pharisaically, contrasted the probity of public men generally in the Dominion with the corrupt governmental officialdom of the States, we have invariably omitted to take into consideration certain economic factors which render these practices so much more conspicuous, and yet safer and easier of accomplishment in the country of the larger and more complex population. But a point of decided significance is that the deplorable condition of a corrupt and inefficient civil service in the