

policy. If provincial smelters cannot get enough to do without aid of this kind they had better close up.

As a matter of fact, however, the few smelters in British Columbia have as much as they can attend to, and the trouble is that there are not enough of them. We want smelters in every direction wherever the ore can be transported to them, and there is little danger that they will not have plenty to do. Fortunately the desire for an export duty on ores is not at all general.

What is wanted is encouragement by the Dominion Government in the shape of bonuses to smelters to induce capitalists to erect them at a time when they are much needed in the province. A liberal policy in this direction on the part of the Ottawa authorities is what is needed. As for the paying capabilities of the smelters when erected, there is no doubt upon that score.

The members of the British Columbia Board of Trade have had an excursion to the Kootenay. That they enjoyed themselves there is no reason to doubt, and that they kept their eyes wide open to the great possibilities of the mining district, their report, which appears elsewhere, will show.

These gentlemen have returned to Victoria fully impressed with the importance of developing our mining resources. Their report now being published in pamphlet form (which is much better than allowing it to remain in the pigeon holes of the Secretary's desk) will assist greatly in advertising the mineral wealth of the province. We hope, however, that the members of the Board of Trade will not rest satisfied with merely publishing an account of their trip—that they will continue the good work by modesty almost forbids our mentioning it, but in the interests of the community generally and ourselves in particular we will throw modesty to the winds and say boldly—by subscribing liberally to this journal.

There is very little doubt now in the minds of most men that the Cariboo country is full of gold, and it is equally certain that, to secure the precious metal from the gravel beds, water is needed. At present each company working in the Cariboo procures its own water, sometimes at great cost, whereas, if some general system was adopted of supplying it for hydraulic mining, the charge to each company using it would be much less than digging ditches of their own.

Here is an opportunity for a most profitable investment of capital. In California the supplying of water to the mining companies is one of the best paying investments in the state. Why should it not be the same in Cariboo? And look at the immense development in hydraulic mining that would follow.

A strong company going into this enterprise would be able to supply all the mining companies in the district with a plentiful supply of water. The ditches already constructed might in some cases be made part of the system and their cost refunded to the companies that built them. Altogether the suggestion is one worthy the attention of capitalists.

It would mean a tremendous boom in Cariboo.

There is a difference of opinion on the South African boom in London, England. Some think the bubble will burst, others that there is no bubble about it, but sound substantiality, and that it will last. The probability is that, like in all booms, many will lose and a few gain, but in the present instance any great collapse of the whole fabric is not likely.

In British Columbia mining stocks we want no such boom. We desire no inflation of values, but what we do wish to see is good substantial dividends to those who invest their money in this province. We seek stability and permanence rather than passing notoriety, and, if anything, would prefer to go slow and be sure.

We fully expect that some of the investments in British Columbia will pay so well that it will cause some excitement in the foreign money market in the same way as South Africa has done. We cannot help that. Nor can we prevent speculation in stocks, but what we can do is to see that the investment of foreign capital here is protected from unscrupulous sharks and speculators. Let everyone assist in this so far as able, in order that the character of British Columbia mining investments may be upheld. A good character is of priceless value, and that is what we desire for British Columbia mining stocks.

The organization of a Mining Bureau is, we understand, occupying the attention of the Minister of Mines. Would it not be a good idea to turn it into a School of Mines, where courses of lectures could be given during the winter months? We feel sure these would be well attended by persons desirous of obtaining a more thorough knowledge of all the branches connected with mining, and, at the close of the season, certificates might be granted to those who would successfully pass an examination. These certificates would permit the holders to act as mining engineers, assayers, etc., and in this way a competent staff of men would be available to examine, report upon, and manage the various mines. Should this suggestion be acted upon, we would like to see a course on geology added to the lectures.

The best lecturers would have to be engaged, and this, of course, would entail expense, but it would be proper to charge a fee in connection with the lectures which people would be only too glad to pay, and this would, in some measure, meet the expenditure. A mere bureau for the purpose of obtaining reliable information about the mines will be difficult to manage successfully, owing to the large outlay it is likely to entail. Besides this, it would place upon the shoulders of the Government a great responsibility should investors rely upon the official reports in making investments. By placing in the field a number of competent men, in addition to those now engaged in the work, the Government would better facilitate the development of our mines.

One thing we would like to see undertaken in a most thorough manner, is a collection of mineral specimens from all parts of the province. These specimens should **always** be in duplicate, one set to be placed in the Government collection, and the other to be sent to the Imperial Institute in England.