

Tyce concerning what copper ore deposits have been discovered in northeast Pacific coast districts, and their ore-producing capabilities so far as shown by developments to date; nor has any other company been so energetic or enterprising in effort to secure whatever smelting business was obtainable on terms that would leave a small margin of profit to the smelter. The company's position is also singularly advantageous in this respect—its smelter stands alone among those of Vancouver Island and Alaska in being assured of a regular supply of coke from the Wellington Colliery Company's ovens on the Island, its fuel supply being provided for under contract. Add to this considerable advantage that of the company's strong position financially, as exhibited by the balance sheet printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Mining Record*, and it will be readily seen that not only are there excellent grounds for satisfaction with the substantial progress it has made in establishing a smelting business mutually advantageous to mine owners and itself, but that it may be reasonably expected its operations will be steadily enlarged and beneficial results be increased to both ore shippers dealing with it and its own shareholders.

The *Mining and Scientific Press* of San Francisco included in the "Special Correspondence" it published on September 14 a letter dated from Vancouver, B.C., the burden of which was the alleged grievance of the coke shortage. As this was the first letter from Vancouver we had seen in that journal this year, we asked ourselves the reason for its appearance and when we detected in it one particular error in figures we had previously seen in the *Rossland Miner* we at once suspected that the "inspiration" which led to its having been written and sent to San Francisco may have been identical with that which so suddenly galvanized the *Rossland* journal into active hostility to the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company. It is not with this "special correspondence" we wish to now briefly deal, though, but with the comment it apparently prompted the editor of the *Mining and Scientific Press* to make. Now we have for the editor of that journal a strong personal regard and a high appreciation of his ability. We have never met the gentleman, but as a result of several years' observation of his forceful style and what we have been impelled to believe to be his strict sense of justice, he has been in marked degree an example whom in our humble way, if he will pardon our saying so, we have not hesitated to follow. He will, we have confidence, therefore accept the following comment in the kindly spirit in which it is made. We think the editor of the *Mining and Scientific Press* was misinformed upon certain salient points when, in his editorial criticism, he made it appear that Mr. J. J. Hill of the Great Northern Railway had "got the coking coal of the Northwest under his thumb." Shortly, we may point out that the places in the northwest at which coke-making has been carried on last year and this are Fernie, Michel

(both with Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's plants), Lillooet and Coleman. The latter two are in southwest Alberta, and supply the smelters of the British Columbia Copper and Dominion Copper Companies, neither of which had been obtaining coke from the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company for a long while prior to the recent trouble. The Great Northern Railway has rail connection with Fernie only, while the Canadian Pacific has with all four places. Again, it is not a fact, as asserted, that "other deposits of coking coal than those now being exploited are not available for the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Government of Canada, because Mr. Hill owns blocks of land commanding access to them." Neither the Dominion Government's coal lands near Morrissey nor the mines the C.P.R. Company's auxiliary organization, the Pacific Coal Company, is opening at Hosmer—not to say anything of C.P.R. coal lands in the upper Elk district now being prospected, and all the coal properties in the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains—is inaccessible to the Government or the C.P.R. as stated. On the contrary, there is no insurmountable obstacle we know of to either or both obtaining access to such of these points as are not already reached by the C.P.R. It does not appear necessary to further show that the editorial comments under notice were made under a misapprehension as to the actual facts of the situation. We must, though, here express our emphatic disapproval of the disingenuousness of the *Rossland Miner* in reprinting in its editorial columns, without fair explanatory comment, statements made by the editor of the *Mining and Scientific Press*, albeit in perfect good faith, yet upon incorrect information. It is not inconceivable, though, that occasionally the *Miner* finds out that "when the devil drives needs must."

We regret that we are unable to congratulate Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt on the result of his efforts to obtain for wide publicity valuable information concerning the mining and smelting industries of British Columbia apart from that given in the "Annual Report of the Minister of Mines" for 1906. In that gentleman's announcement of the object he had in view in offering seven prizes of a value of \$50 each for "the most complete answers" regarding the seven stated subjects he had chosen, the following occurred: "Mining and Smelting.—Give a description, by districts of the various coal and mineral areas; an account of the work now proceeding; detail production for 1906; value of same; average number of hands engaged; practical suggestions for developing and increasing this most important industry." On pp. 344-350 of this number of the *Mining Record* we reprint the first prize essay. No information has reached us as to the number of essays there were submitted in this competition, but it seems to us that if there were several others and the one published is the best, the response to Mr. Flumerfelt's invitation to compete was chiefly from those not well