

The memorial says this decline or "blighting of the industry is not due entirely to natural causes, but mainly to unwise legislation"; at the same time admitting that the industry of metal mining has suffered, amongst other causes, from "The ordinary elements of chance, over-valuation of prospective mines, stock swindles, bad management, etc., etc."

That the present condition of the industry in *Rossland* is retrograding, is undeniable; that this is due to legislation, wise or unwise, is very debateable. We do not fancy that the Association will argue that legislation at Victoria is responsible for the Miners' Union's existence, nor for the decreasing grade and uncertain quantities of *Rossland* ore. And, in fairness, we must point out that a study of the Minister of Mines' Report does not justify any statement that the mining industry is retrograding in other camps throughout the Province. The legislature cannot be held responsible for the depression in the silver-lead mines. While admitting the difficulties under which mining ventures have labored in British Columbia the REVIEW cannot see that they are due to any causes which are legitimately within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government. We have no desire to approve of the eight-hour law, nor to minimise the effects that have resulted from that law, neither do we desire to uphold in any way the burdensome 2% tax on output which is oppressive to many of the mines; but we do desire distinctly to record the opinion that the rectification of these matters is necessarily within the sphere of the Province itself, and not to be supplied by the Dominion Government in any special form or manner. The Province itself, and the people in it, are to blame for any legislation which has been unwise, and also for "the over-valuation, stock swindles, and bad management" complained of in the memorial.

The columns of the REVIEW, during the past four or five years, have forecast in a measure the conditions which now obtain in some of the older camps. By those competent to observe, and deduce conclusions, the operation of the natural law of cause and effect could have been seen as clearly years ago as it now is plainly felt, though it has been aided by the labor agitator and his followers.

The vague stories of fabulous richness have run their course and died a natural death; values have been ruthlessly cut down with experience; credulous (because inexperienced) capitalists, and the yet more credulous public, have been the prey of promoters and stock schemers, and loss of confidence in the mines of British Columbia was inevitable. So far as the Canadian capitalist is concerned, this loss of confidence has begotten violent condemnation of everything and everybody connected with mines, and the reaction is as grossly absurd as was the enthusiasm of three years ago; the foreign capitalist, however, who is no novice, has only been waiting for the shaking up British Columbia mines are now experiencing, knowing that when matters settle down values will be on an approximately equitable basis, and that mining can then be conducted in the same way as any other business.

No Royal Commission is needed, nor should it be issued. Hasty legislation at Victoria, burdensome taxes, and labor union troubles call for no outside investigation, but for strong and united Provincial efforts for their rectification. The Federal Government has done its part in giving such relief (in bounties) as was asked, but it cannot change the customs tariff for the benefit of any one particular Province, or any particular class of citizens. It is for the inhabitants of British Columbia to help themselves and to take such action as will rehabilitate that Province in the favor of capitalists both at home and abroad.

The fourth volume of the Journal of Proceedings of the Canadian Mining Institute for 1901 was issued to the members on the 22nd instant. This volume is the largest yet published since the organization of the Institute.

Mining in Nova Scotia.

During the past six months mining operations have been carried on vigorously in Nova Scotia. In Cape Breton, the Dominion Coal Co., have practically bottomed their big shaft, and next season its production will be an important item. The development of No. 3 colliery in the Caledonia seam has been steadily pushed. As the coal in No. 4 sank in an underlying seam proved too thin to work, the mine was closed. The improvements effected during the past year in the plant of this company have resulted in increased outputs from all of their principal mines. The amounts of coal supplied to the Dominion Iron and Steel Company are steadily increasing, as additional furnaces are blown in.

At the Old Sydney Mines, the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company are working steadily both at their ovens and in the pit. Preparations are being made to open up the Northern district which as yet is untouched. This will be reached by a branch railway from their present line. Boring operations are being continued by Mr. Roberts in the rear of North Sydney, and by Senator McKeen near Cow Bay. The results which are not yet made public are believed to be fairly encouraging.

At Mabou, some exploratory work has been done with a view of preparing for the extension of the workings under the sea. The Port Hood Coal Company are making good progress, and claim to have improved their shipping facilities so that good sized cargoes can be loaded without any difficulty.

At Broad Cove, the work of development by the Inverness and Richmond Railway and Collieries Company is being gradually extended. This company are now connecting their road with the Government system by a branch from Port Hawkesbury to Port Hastings.

In Pictou County the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company are opening a seam to the East of New Glasgow, from which they expect to take out about 200 tons of coal a day to supply their generators at Trenton. Otherwise, mining is rather quiet in the Pictou district. A good deal of interest is being taken in the prospect of finding coal beneath the overlying measures between New Glasgow and Pictou, and arrangements are being made for the services of one of the Government drills.

In Cumberland County work has been quiet during the past few weeks. The purchase of a large amount of coal by the Minister of Railways last spring has anticipated the ordinary supplies furnished by the mainland collieries. As, however, it is stated that the railway will require an increased amount of coal, this will probably be made up in the fall. The total sales for the six months amount to about a million and a half tons as compared with one million three hundred and fifty thousand tons during the same period last year.

The Dominion Iron and Steel Company have now two furnaces in blast, and are arranging to start the third in a few days. Some little difficulties incidental to the inauguration of furnaces under new conditions have been met, and are being overcome. Presumably they are due to the proper relationships of the fuel, ores and fluxes not yet being fully made out. The erection of steel works, plate and other mills is being hastened as much as possible, and every effort is being made to overcome the delays which have arisen in getting this concern in full working order.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company have continued working in Pictou County. A Government drill is at work now in the Whycocomagh iron deposits, in the hope that it will prove a cheaper and more prompt method of tracing the various deposits.

At Torbrook, in Annapolis County, the borings of the Government Diamond drill conducted by Messrs. Pearson and Brookfield