

The new surface works the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. has arranged to have installed at its Coal Creek colliery, to replace those destroyed by fire last March, are described on another page. An expenditure of \$200,000 on modern coal-handling plant, supplementing the large outlay of previous years, indicates unmistakably the permanent nature of coal mining in the Crow's Nest Pass region, of which that distinguished Canadian geologist, the late Dr. George M. Dawson, said: "It is manifest that we have here one of the most remarkable coal basins known."

The Denver, Colorado, special correspondent of the *Engineering and Mining Journal* has informed that journal that "the larger mining companies are gradually adjusting their work to the 8-hour law, and by May 1, when a number of contracts expire, matters will be running satisfactorily everywhere." On the other hand, in Pennsylvania, when a labour committee representing the miners appeared before the committee on mines and mining in the legislature, and pleaded for a favourable report on the 8-hour law bill, the miners' relief bill, and various other bills of a similar character, it received no satisfaction, the committee of the legislature giving out that it would not act upon those bills.

The publication of the MINING RECORD has this month been purposely delayed so that official mineral production statistics and reviews of the progress and development of the mining industry of the province during 1904, might be presented to our readers simultaneously with the publication of the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia for the year 1904. We have been enabled to do this by the courtesy of the provincial mineralogist, whom we have to thank as well for the loan of most of the blocks used to illustrate this issue. While our present experience of the readiness of the Bureau of Mines to facilitate the publication of information relating to the mining and metallurgical industries of the province is but a repetition of that of former like occasions, we appreciate the renewed courtesy none the less, and take much pleasure in thus making grateful acknowledgement of it.

The important development work being done by the Rambler-Cariboo Mines, Ltd., with the object of cutting the ore vein in its mine in the Slocan at a depth of 1,400 ft. is being steadily advanced. The first contract for driving the long adit has been completed at a distance of 2,125 ft. from the portal. A second contract has been let to drive the additional length estimated to be required to reach the lode—about 2,300 ft. By now half the total distance will have been driven. This enterprise stands out in strong contrast to the do-nothing policy of some of the mining companies owning mines in the Slocan believed to be well worth extensive development, and it is to be hoped that it will be abundantly rewarded, as, indeed, there is ample reason to believe it will be.

THE CRITICISM OF A MINING JOURNAL.

A BUYER of mining stocks writes complaining that the *Mining Record*, of Denver, has, by an adverse criticism, destroyed the market value of his shares in his locality, and asks if there is any way to remedy the effects of the attacks. If there is any real value in the mine, if the corporation is able to finance it upon legitimate lines, all the adverse criticism in the world will not affect the intrinsic worth of the shares. We have not always agreed with the policy of the *Mining Record*, but we acknowledge that in the great majority of cases that paper is treading upon safe ground. It lives on the mining industry. Both realise that fraud in the payment of dividends or misrepresentations generally, is a drawback to mining, for the digging for metals is founded upon confidence and speculation. If confidence is destroyed very little Eastern capital will assist in digging, consequently a paper published among mines, in close touch with miners, has good reasons to watch publicly-floated propositions. The promoter's cry that the reason of criticism is because he don't advertise is not a good defence, and a weaker defence is that the corporate affairs need not be lain open to those who are not financially interested. We feel that if any paper, good, bad or indifferent, asks a company selling its stock to the public for a statement, it should be given. Bradstreet or Dun's Mercantile Agencies have no interest in our firm, yet whenever they ask for a statement, we lay bare all they want to know. They are entitled to the information, for if their clients call upon them and they speak well of us, they should have over our signature a report for a basis of their information. The leading mining papers of the West are virtually rating agencies. We advise them to be treated as such. If they injure you by misrepresentation your recourse is in the courts. Plainly speaking, there are many mining companies, the statements of which should be made under oath.—*Wall Street Recorder*.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AS THE "MINERAL PROVINCE" OF CANADA.

B RITISH Columbia's claim to be regarded as the "Mineral Province" of Canada finds strong support in the comparison made annually in the report of the Minister of Mines for the province. Table X, as published in the report just issued, exhibits the "Comparative Mineral Production for 1904 of British Columbia and Other Provinces of the Dominion," and shows the value of the total production of metallic minerals and of coal and coke, as \$47,279,740. Taking, first, the metallic minerals, gold, silver, copper and lead, the respective proportions are: British Columbia, \$13,424,335; Yukon Territory, (gold only), \$10,337,000; all other parts of the Dominion, \$1,914,063; total, \$25,675,398. Adding iron and nickel, of which British Columbia nor the Yukon last year made any production, the proportion of all other parts of the Dominion is \$7,035,096, out of a total of \$30,796,431. When coal and coke are added, the proportion of other