

cessful in connection with mining in this Province than does British, while at the same time it is not so prejudiced against British Columbia in this connection, so it would seem good policy to encourage in every legitimate way the further investment of American money towards utilizing the enormous mineral wealth this Province undoubtedly possesses. Canada is at the present time obtaining an effective advertisement through the fine mineral display it is making at St. Louis Exposition, and British Columbia will, no doubt share in the substantial benefit that may reasonably be expected to result; but there is no need to rest content with having taken one effective step in the right direction. If Dr. Bell's proposal has not yet been acted upon, it is to be hoped that no more time will be lost in carrying it out than is absolutely necessary. We suggest to British Columbian members of the Dominion Parliament that their influence and efforts may well be directed towards inducing the Federal Government to act promptly, if it has not already done so, in the direction suggested by the Director of the Geological Survey, for British Columbia has much to gain and nothing to lose by the adoption of such a course.

We have received from the Institution of Mining Engineers, England, a printed copy of a paper, entitled "The Smelters of British Columbia," by Mr. W. Denham Verschoyle, read before the Institution at a general meeting held in London last year. While we are always glad to find publicity being given to the mining and smelting industries of this Province, we cannot think that the permanent usefulness of the information afforded is determined chiefly by its accuracy. Mr. Verschoyle's paper is sadly lacking in this respect. It appears to be very much an accumulation of selections from matter that has been published from time to time, made without sufficient information as to its reliability or otherwise to ensure even a general correctness. To this has been added some tables of statistics from the report of the Minister of Mines, and some generalisations and not always accurate conclusions. It has not even the merit of consistency. For instance, the introduction opens with the statement that "Mining in British Columbia is at present in a rather unsatisfactory state," etc., while the same paragraph closes with the contradictory statement that "many of the mines are coming to the front, and the value of the mineral-production is expanding every year at a rapid and satisfactory rate." Then follows a table from which the reader gathers this "expansion" took the surprising form of a decrease of \$2,600,230 in total value of production in 1902 as compared with that of 1901. There is no explanation of the fact, well known to us here in British Columbia but not to the great majority of those in Great Britain to whom Mr. Verschoyle was communicating information supposedly full and intelligible, that though the total market value showed a decrease, the total quantity of mineral produced did the reverse. Other inconsistencies and inaccuracies mar a paper that, in careful hands, might have been a decided benefit to the Province. A few of these will

be mentioned. On page 6 the Granby smelter is shown to have six furnaces; on page 7 the statement is made that "The smelter consists of two double-decked, steel-jacketed furnaces." Again, it is stated that the Mother Lode mine, near Greenwood, shipped during the year 1902 45,000 tons of ore, while as a matter of fact it shipped 138,007 tons. But it would be tedious to follow Mr. Verschoyle through his many inaccuracies, so only two more will be pointed out. Said he "The cost of mining (in the Boundary district) has been reduced as low as \$1.06 and is a generally difficult problem, on account of the large size of the deposits." Our information has been that the cost of getting out and loading on the railway cars the great bulk of the ore shipped by the Mother Lode and Granby mines has been less than \$1. per ton. The other inaccuracy referred to is contained in the following: "It seems not unreasonable to assume that, with competition, coal should be sold at \$1.25 and coke at \$2.50 per ton." In this Mr. Verschoyle has gone one better than Mr. W. Blakemore, who was radical enough to assert that "effective competition would reduce the charge for coal to \$1.50 and for coke to \$3. at the ovens, and possible a little lower." Mr. Verschoyle's method was, doubtless, a laudable one in preparing the paper under notice, but, unhesitatingly admitting this, we cannot but think that he had far better not have prepared it than have submitted it without careful verification of his statements.

Sometime last March, if we remember aright, the *Nelson Daily News* published a letter purported to have been written by a Mr. O. M. Rosendale, describing himself as a consulting Metallurgist and Mining Engineer, of Portland, Oregon, to a Rossland broker. This letter which had to do with the sale of a group of mineral claims, contained certain proposals which could never have emanated from an honorable man of business, and we therefore heartily endorsed the view taken of the matter by the *Daily News*, who described the letter as a "rascally production" and the author thereof "a fakir." Mr. Rosendale now writes us that having returned to Portland after a lengthy absence, his attention has been called for the first time to the paragraph in respect to him in our April issue, and concerning which he waxes extremely indignant. We quote: "In a few words will say, that my answer to the unwarranted attack upon my person, my integrity, and also my veracity will be forthcoming in the courts of British Columbia. I am sure that in no other instance has there been displayed such disregard for established usages among newspapers as has been shown in these articles, originally appearing in the Nelson paper, and gleefully enlarged upon by your article. Neither you or the Nelson paper have even tried to ascertain whether or not the contention you presume to exist were founded on fact or not. I suppose any old charge against me, no even murder excluded, would have served your purposes as well.

"You in British Columbia are wont to dwell upon the yellow journal methods across the line, yet I assure you, not one respectable or if you please sev-