

A despatch from Slovan City to the *Nelson Daily News* states that: "Work has been suspended at the Ottawa mine, pending the arrival of the Pittsburg owners, when a decision will be made as to the method of work in the future." The manager of the mine is incapacitated, being ill with rheumatism.

The Payne mine and concentrating mill near Sandon, Slovan district, have been bought at public auction by Senator Forget of Montreal, Quebec, for \$60,000. Prior to 1902 dividends totalling \$1,363,000 were paid out of the earnings of this mine. The concentrator, with appliances for saving zinc, was constructed in 1901.

The addition of the northern part of the Skeena division of Cassiar district to the copper producing sections of the Province is worthy of note. Its officially recorded production of 293,269 lb. of copper in 1906 as against none in 1905 and only 17,407 lb. for all previous years indicates substantial progress in lode mining last year.

On May 11 the *Mining and Scientific Press*, of San Francisco, California, published an article on "Mining in Honduras," written for that journal by Horace G. Nichols. This contributor is, we understand, now manager for the Ymir Gold Mines, Ltd., with gold-quartz mine, 80-stamp mill, and cyanide plant in the Ymir section of Nelson mining division.

According to the *Nelson Daily News*, S. S. Fowler, manager of the Canadian Metal Company, who lately returned from an extended trip in the East, says that the appeal of the American smelters on the zinc tariff question concerning the importation of zinc ore from Canada into the United States, had been heard, but that so far as he could learn no decision had been handed out yet.

The *Mining Record* was criticized and condemned by the *Vernon News* and *Victoria Week* last year because of its expressed disbelief in a successful outcome of operations at the British Empire mine so long as "Windy" Young had anything to do with the management of it. The gold commissioner for the Vernon mining division officially reported for the year 1906 as follows: "On the British Empire and Royal Standard claims a 5-stamp mill ran for 120 days, and gold was recovered on the plates." On reference to Table IX. of the "Annual Report of the Minister of Mines for 1906," we find that Similkameen, Nicola, and Vernon divisions are together credited with a production in 1906 of 6 oz. of lode gold, value \$124. We are curious to know whether the British Empire production for a run of 120 days was included in the official return of 6 oz. If so the *Mining Record* was more than justified in its doubt. If not, what explanation has "Windy" Young to make for not having observed the law requiring mine managers to make returns of production?

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF MINES FOR THE YEAR 1906.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia for the year ended December 31, 1906, which is the official account of the year's mining operations in the Province, while unavoidably not issued with the accustomed promptitude of former years, is of more than ordinary interest for several reasons. In particular many engaged in, or otherwise concerned about, mining in British Columbia are pleased to have at their disposal the provincial mineralogist's survey of the condition of the industry, based upon the reports supplied to the bureau of mines by gold commissioners and mining recorders and, what is of much more importance, on the returns required by law to be sent in by mine owners or operators. The statistics of production, carefully compiled from the most reliable data obtainable and presented in tabulated form so as to clearly exhibit the position from a comparative point of view, are of much practical value to those using the information thus made conveniently accessible.

The several special reports made by the provincial mineralogist and the provincial assayer (for to the latter was delegated the duty of visiting and reporting upon two or three districts to which prospectors have been giving attention) are of general interest. Chief among these is that relating to the Peace River country, concerning which there had previously been but little recent information available to the public. The provincial mineralogist's detailed description of the country passed through is given in diary form, and it contains much intelligence that will be found useful by travellers proceeding to that outlying district. A summary precedes the narrative of the daily journeyings and observations, and this is reprinted on pp. 219-230 of this number of the *Mining Record*. The information being authentic and recent will be generally acceptable. The numerous excellent half-tone views adequately illustrate the physical features and general character of the country passed through. Some of these, through the kind courtesy of the bureau of mines, have been used in this issue. Other plates depicting mountain and river scenery along the route travelled, are too long for use in the pages of this journal, which is much regretted since they furnish instructive object lessons relative to the comparatively unknown country under notice.

As far as practicable there have been reprinted in this month's *Mining Record* the statistical tables and the comments of the provincial mineralogist on the year's mining progress and mineral production. Space limitations have prevented more being done this month in this direction, but the parts of this section of the report selected for reprinting will be found to contain figures and facts directly indicating the position of the mining industry of the Province. It has been found necessary to omit particulars of some of the branches of the work done by or under the bureau of mines. These include the practical