

American and Canadian engineers. This is shown in the following list: Le Roi, British company, manager, Mr. Mackenzie, a Canadian; Le Roi No. 2, British company, manager, Mr. MacDonald, an American; Centre Star and War Eagle, Canadian company, manager, Mr. Kirby, an American; Knob Hill and Ironsides, Canadian company, manager, Mr. Yolen Williams, a Welshman; B. C. Copper, American company, manager, Mr. Keffer, an American, consulting engineer, Mr. Thomas, a Cornishman; B. C. Mine, Canadian company, manager, Mr. Parrish, an American; Snowshoe Mine, British company, manager Mr. Astley, an Englishman; London and B. C. Goldfields, British company, manager, Mr. Fowler, an American; North Star, Canadian company, manager, Mr. J. L. Parker, a Scotchman; Sullivan, American company, manager, Mr. Finlay, a Scotchman; Lenora Mine, British company, manager, Mr. Croft, an Englishman; Tyee, British company, manager, Mr. Livingston, an Englishman; and so on." As a matter of fact we have at the present time very few paying mines, whether British, American or Canadian owned, that is to say, mines paying regular dividends. There are, however, many properties on—there is fair reason to believe—the eve of becoming regularly profitable and of these probably quite as many are controlled by British as by Canadian or American capital. As to the capabilities of the British mining engineer, every one will concede that given equal advantages, he is as good a man professionally as the members of the same profession in America or in any other country. In fact, some of the most eminent mining authorities in the United States are of British birth. In Pennsylvania a great many of the miners are Welshmen; in the Minnesota iron mines, the Montana copper mines, indeed in all the great mining centres of the States, Cornish miners are very much in evidence; Marcus Daly was an Irishman; Mackay of the Comstock was, we believe, also of this nationality; Parks, one of the most successful of mining men in California, is a Scotchman; and there are hundreds of other instances of eminence attained by British mining men in the United States. It must, however, be reluctantly admitted that the theory and practice of mining is better and more thoroughly taught in the mining schools and colleges of the United States and Canada than it is in any institution of the kind in Great Britain, and other things being equal, an experienced manager in this country would certainly prefer as an assistant a graduate of (say) McGill or Columbia Universities to a graduate of the Royal School of Mines or of Camborne. Not only are American schools better equipped than the British, but their students have the advantage of acquiring practical knowledge in the field and under the conditions where they are first likely to be called upon to apply that knowledge. While we agree with our corres-

pondent that Mr. Bell has no particular ground for charging British companies with appointing inexperienced and untrained graduates direct from British mining schools to the charge of important mines in British Columbia, there can be no doubt that in the past many costly British failures have resulted from the fact that so-called mining engineers directing operations were either incapable or were not familiar with local conditions and requirements.

It is gratifying to remark that preliminary steps have been taken towards the establishment of a British Columbian branch of the Canadian Mining Institute, a committee of representative men having been appointed at the meeting in Nelson the other day to take the matter in hand. In this connection we desire, on behalf of the mining community of British Columbia, to express our cordial appreciation of the part played by Mr. B. T. A. Bell, the secretary of the Institute, to whose efforts the present movement is due. "The Canadian Mining Institute" is in fact, Mr. Bell. It owes its origin and usefulness to him, and it is doubtful whether any other man would or could have managed, with equal success, the organization of a society such as the Institute under conditions and circumstances so, to all appearances, insurmountably difficult. The gift of organization is granted to few. Mr. Bell possesses it in an eminent degree. Since its inception the Mining Institute has been of great service, not only to the industry, but to the country. Its power is increasing, and already it has been able to influence legislation at Ottawa on matters touching the welfare of the mining interests. The necessity for a British Columbian branch has long been felt and the opportunity will now be afforded mining engineers and others of meeting at stated periods and deliberating upon engineering or metallurgical questions and problems of local concern, while much good may also result from the ventilation of grievances, together with suggestions to the Government on the matter of mining legislation. It may safely be assumed that the Government of British Columbia is not only willing but anxious to listen to advice from practical men, and if this is submitted in a proper and business-like manner there can be no doubt but that it will have the best possible effect.

Experimental tests are now being made with the new "Garretson" type of furnace, which has been installed at the Crofton smelter, and an exhibition of the furnace in operation was given by the Northwestern Smelting and Refining Company the other day. No attempt, however, has yet been made by the operators of the Crofton smelter to establish the inventor's claims, and until these have been satisfactorily demonstrated it would be premature to discuss the value of the invention.