

tively asserted, in Denver, Colorado, and delivery of it is to be made within three months. This intelligence, if it prove true, will be gratifying, but it would be received with much more confidence could the assurance also be given that the site for the location of this smelter had been definitely decided upon and secured. This very necessary preliminary does not appear to have yet been arranged, or, if it has, no public announcement to that effect has been made. This fact, though, need not necessarily stamp the scheme as but one of several which though announced by district newspapers with, figuratively, a flourish of trumpets, have seemingly not yet got any farther than an existence on paper. So wide of the truth in their reckless assertions respecting mining and smelting enterprises have certain district newspapers and correspondents sometimes been that they are still reluctant to admit that their wild suggestions have not been warranted. On the contrary, some are persisting in sending out inflated reports and, what is more regrettable, newspapers of good standing are continuing to publish them. There are these truths, though, forcing themselves upon all interested in the district, whether willingly or reluctantly received, that nothing but actual and profitable returns from the mines will now bring prosperity to the local mining industry; that booming is a played-out business, and that until such time as smelter returns have amply demonstrated that values are sufficiently good new mining enterprises are unlikely to be undertaken here. The question of quantity of ore is no longer open to reasonable doubt, development work in several Boundary camps having already disclosed the existence down to the 300-foot level of big bodies of ore with every indication that deeper workings will show that these live down.

The publication of truths like that above mentioned is unpalatable especially to many interested residents who hold that a newspaper correspondent's duty to the district he lives in is to write favourably of it or not at all, and who resent, even to the extent of practically boycotting him, the actions of the correspondent who dares write conscientiously, and who is not open to accept "something on the side." But fortunately there are many others who do not countenance deception, not even the deception of silence, so that after all there is small danger of actual facts being long kept back.

After much careful enquiry and observation the writer believes himself amply warranted (assuming as he thinks they are, that the assurances of mining men in charge of some of the better-developed properties of the district are to be relied upon) in concluding that not only are there several mines in the district that give abundant promise of permanence as far as quantity of ore is concerned, but that values will, with economical mining and treatment, leave a sufficient margin of profit to encourage the further investment of capital in the utilization of the extensive mineral resources of the Boundary country. The time for the crucial test of the vital question of values of ore in bulk is, however, near at hand. Both the Grand Forks and the Greenwood smelters should soon be in regular operation, the former within a few weeks, and the latter ere the snow flies this year. The results that they will bring are awaited with confidence, there being substantial reasons for anticipating that generally they will be satisfactory.

Journalistic piracy is in other countries generally

recognized as a very unpardonable offence, but, unhappily, it is commonly practised in British Columbia. The offence is inexcusable because it is such a very easy matter for a newspaper copying an article from the columns of another to be sufficiently courteous to credit the source from which the information was drawn. Within the last month no less than three of our contemporaries have appropriated, without any sort of acknowledgment articles specially prepared and paid for by this periodical. One of the offenders was the *Greenwood Times*, and we mention this case particularly for the reason that in the article "Mining Plants in the Boundary District" thus extracted several stupid and unfortunate typographical errors appeared to which our attention was subsequently drawn, and were also repeated by our contemporary. The errors to which we allude occurred in connection with the dimensions of an air-receiver, in every case "feet" being substituted for "inches" and *vice versa*. Meanwhile we certainly do not object to articles contributed to these columns by our paid correspondents appearing in other newspapers—in fact we are only too happy that our efforts to disseminate information concerning British Columbia's most important industry should be thus assisted—provided always acknowledgment is likewise given. On the other hand, when newspapers of the standing and business connections of the *Times* "pirate" an article which in this instance might easily have been obtained and paid for first-hand, reasons for protest are obvious, and we are quite certain our excellent contemporary will accept this view.

During the week ending the 14th of June the Le Roi mine shipped 4,675 tons of ore, the largest output ever made from a single mine in one week in the history of the province. The smelter at Northport is quite incapable of handling the output of the Le Roi alone, without counting the other properties of the B. A. C. now nearing the shipping stage. As a measure of temporary relief until the Northport smelter has been enlarged a contract, said to be for 150 tons a day, has been entered into with the Trail smelter. The risk that the Rossland output will fall below that of last year and the hope that it will go materially beyond it are equally fading away as the season advances. With all due deference to the general anticipation, it will be some time yet before the Le Roi No. 2 and Le Roi No. 3 begin to ship ore. And the War Eagle and Centre Star seem as far off as ever from the solution of their difficulties. Great things are promised for 1901, an output of 700,000 tons of ore being even hinted at. But the present concern is the year 1900, and it does not seem likely that last year's tonnage will be materially increased.

More satisfactory even than the successful reconstruction of the Hall Mines and the provision of £50,000 additional working capital is the decision of the company to overhaul the management from top to bottom. Sunk in the Hall Mines is an immense amount of capital which may be written off as a dead loss and is so considered by the market, as witness the price of the shares. Sooner or later the capital of the company will have to be scaled down to a more reasonable figure. On a less ambitious basis, however, there is no reason why the mine and smelter should not pay. The best wishes of everyone interested in British Columbia mining are extended to the