

H. C. Ludorf.

M. De Keyser Verbiest.

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own ores, was less than 50 cents per ton. And the gentleman further stated: "What would we do with our matte? There isn't a concern in the United States that would contract to treat it for us constantly, and just now there is only one concern that will buy any because of the high gold and low copper contents. I have had communications from them all, and they have all declined to enter into a contract with us."

Perhaps those who are howling for smelters would advise putting in converters, and turn the matte into blister copper. And still further, as a young and prominent lawyer said in the last meeting of the Center Star Company, held in Rosland: "We want a smelter, a refinery and a mint, too."

However, laying all feeling aside in this important matter, and looking at it in a business sense, it would be wise for the people of any section to go slow on building smelters. See that the mines are developed to such an extent that the ore output is fully equal to the present treating capacity, and then and only then, would it be wise to talk of building other smelters. From the *Western Mining World*.

CALIFORNIA GOLD YIELD.

According to the statistics compiled by the mint authorities of San Francisco, the gold output of California for 1896 was \$17,181,562. Thus 1896 was the largest yield of the state since 1868. The smallest yield of the state since 1848 was in 1890, when it declined to \$9,896,851. The state's largest gold yield was in 1853, when its mines turned out the enormous output of \$65,000,000. From 1850 to 1853, inclusive, the annual yield at no time fell below \$50,000,000. These were the palmy day of placer mining, when fortune beckoned to the poor man as well as the rich. Of the adventurous host, who washed these millions from the bars of the golden streams of California, few have withstood the vicissitudes of time. They are scattered as the sparks once scattered from their camp fires. Many have crossed over, and sadder yet, many who linger are broken in health, hope and fortune. But their deeds and their golden romance will live long in song and story.

It is the aim of the MINING CRITIC to give the news of the week fully, accurately and impartially. The arrangement made by the MINING CRITIC for collecting the news from all parts of the Province are so thorough and complete that no event of importance can occur anywhere here which is not promptly recorded in its columns.

Dan. Mann of Montreal and William McKenzie of Toronto have been given the contract to build the Crow's Nest Pass railway from Fort Macleod to Nelson. The distance is 330 miles, and the cost will be about \$8,000,000. The road will be completed as rapidly as possible.

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