

ported to have been encountered and both this mine and the War Eagle are making extensive shipments; the Great Western is to be unwatered early next month and altogether it would appear that Rossland is about to witness a new era of increased activity and continued prosperity. The price of copper meanwhile is satisfactorily high, smelting costs are reasonably low, the labour conditions are settled, and in the background is the great possibilities awaiting the development of the economic treatment of the lower grade ores by methods of concentration to be shortly introduced.

We have on several occasions called attention to the unbusinesslike manner in which the affairs of the Boundary Creek Mining and Milling Company are conducted. We are now informed that the Bank of Montreal at Rossland holds the deeds of the company's property as collateral security for an advance of eight thousand dollars, and that as the money was not paid when due the property may at any time be seized and sold. The worst of it is that the shareholders seemingly know nothing of the position in which they have been placed. The property is just becoming valuable in consequence of the successful development of adjoining property in the granitic belt, and therefore the sooner the directors are called to account and an explanation demanded the better.

The Labourers' Co-operative Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Co., Ltd., of B. C., to which we referred in a recent issue, appears, we are glad to note, to have been re-organized on a more business-like basis, although it is to be regretted that our pious friend, Mr. Nylin, still has a seat on the Board and acts in the capacity of Treasurer. At a meeting held in Chicago last month the Directors were authorized to complete the purchase of seventeen mineral claims in the Ice River district previously owned by the Chicago & B. C. M. Co., Ltd., the consideration being 850,000 shares in the Labourers' Co-operative Company. In order to carry out this agreement and to provide sufficient funds for development purposes the capital stock of the undertaking has been increased to half a million dollars. In a circular issued recently by the secretary the following paragraph appears: "Under the new directorate, and with ample means to carry out the work, and a capable management, the Directors believe that the company has now entered upon a successful career; and while it is to be hoped that the progress of the company will be such as to put the company on a paying basis within a reasonable time, the shareholders must remember that it takes time and a lot of money to develop and equip a mine under the most favourable conditions." Now that sounds very like an honest and reasonable statement; at any rate, it is written in a

strain contrasting most favourably with the bombastic and absurd utterances of Nylin. On the new Board, we observe, are five reputable residents of Golden, and we have therefore further reason for believing that the enterprise will be henceforward conducted along legitimate lines.

The Executive of the Mining Association recently passed and forwarded a resolution to Ottawa suggestive of the form of assistance which the Federal Government should afford the silver-lead mining industry. This recommendation was to the effect that failing tariff adjustment, a bonus should be granted of \$4 a ton in ore, \$8 on lead mined and smelted in Canada, and \$10 per ton on lead mined, smelted and refined in Canada. The resolution was drawn up by a special committee, one of whose members was Mr. J. J. Campbell, of Nelson, than whom few are better informed on the subject of the lead mining industry in the Kootenays. It may be also mentioned that before final action was taken in the matter the Executive endeavoured but without success to communicate by telegraph with and ascertain the views of Mr. Retallack, one of the delegates sent by the Silver-Lead Miners' Association to lay the case of the lead mine owners before the Government at Ottawa. It now appears that the recommendation of the Executive does not meet with the approval of Mr. Retallack and the mining interests he represents who desire a direct bonus of \$15 a ton on all lead mined. It is unfortunate that there should be any conflict of ideas on so important a matter, as the Government might easily find here an excuse to defer action altogether. The Executive of the Association have recognized such a possibility, and on that account now commend for the consideration of the Government Mr. Retallack's suggestion. At the same time, it must be remembered that the Association is working not for one class only, but for the mining industry of British Columbia, and the original recommendation was framed accordingly. An adjustment of the tariff, as proposed, would stimulate not only mining, but local smelting, refining and manufacturing of lead. Aid in that direction, however, has been refused. The next best thing, therefore, is a bonus so granted as to afford adequate encouragement to both miner and smelter. The suggestion of the Executive aims to effect that purpose. The assistance asked for by Mr. Retallack would no doubt greatly benefit the owners of lead mines, but it would have no direct influence in building up smelting or refining industries in the Province.

THE NEED FOR SIMPLIFICATION.

(By Clive-Phillips-Wollex.)

IF we may be allowed to judge, we should say, that the dominant characteristic of the present Provincial Mining Association as a whole, is its plain common sense.

Simple practical laws, in simple words are what the Association is working for.

These are what the mining interests of British Columbia at present lack.