

task of misrepresenting—in articles contributed to the leading London illustrated papers—the value of this concern's two-for-a-penny prospects, and now, seemingly, Mr. T. R. Hardiman, a so-called mining engineer from Vancouver, is playing the same game, only with variations. A recent issue of the *Financial News* contains an account of an interview between a representative of that journal and this Mr. Hardiman. The interview makes decidedly interesting reading, and Mr. Hardiman quite succeeds in doing what his interviewer states he appeared "agreeably disposed" to do e.g. he throws "an additional ray or two of light on mining in this province." Indeed, Mr. Hardiman brings apparently an X-ray to bear, for in spite of all his clap-trap talk of Le Roi dividends and his common-place remarks about the richness of the British Columbia mines—some of them true enough, perhaps, but trite for all that, the skeleton of this precious "Associated Gold Mines of B.C., Ltd.," is sufficiently discernable. As we have already pointed out, this company is making a great mistake in allowing its bona-fides to be called into question by the adoption of foolish boom methods, at any rate at the present decidedly critical stage. They have acquired a number of prospects, nearly one hundred, we are informed, in good localities, but the time to boast about the value of these should surely be after they have been proved to be mines. The way Mr. Hardiman talks about \$100,000 assays is really deplorable, but then Mr. Hardiman is by trade a picture dealer, and not a mining expert, and in the two or three years he has spent knocking about mining camps has not learnt that business methods which might possibly be applied to the one calling are not altogether desirable in the other.

The last session of the seventh Parliament of British Columbia, was brought to a close on Friday the 20th of May. This session has, in many respects, been one of the most important in the history of the Province, and notably so far as the mining interests are concerned. The day before prorogation, the Premier, the Hon. J. H. Turner, in an address to the House, was able to announce that work had actually commenced upon the construction of a railway to Boundary Creek from Robson; that a line from the Columbia River to the Coast would be completed within a measurable space of time, and that the Yukon trade would be secured to the Province by the speedy building of a road from a point on the British Columbia sea coast, to Teslin Lake. While still holding to the view we have frequently expressed through the MINING RECORD, that the railway policy of the Provincial Government is open to criticism, and that the system of bonusing is wrong in principle, the bargain made by the Legislature with Messrs MacKenzie & Mann for the construction of the Kitimat-Teslin railway has a great deal to commend it, and the fact that the Province is to receive in return for the aid granted a royalty of four per cent. on the gross receipts of the line, being at least some sort of recognition of the principle which we have striven to uphold.

Again, although some have contended that the matter of granting aid to a Yukon railway enterprise should have been left in the hands of the Federal Government, the construction of the Kitimat railway will directly benefit British Columbia—more especially probably, the Coast cities, but nevertheless the whole Province, for the well-being of the Coast cities will contribute to the well-being of the mining districts.

For the construction of the Coast-Columbia river, the same subsidy is offered this year as last, but the company building the line in consideration of the cash bonus will not receive the land grant, and hence the territory reserved for the Columbian & Western will doubtless revert to the Crown. We should, of course, have preferred to have been able to state that the terms upon which the bonus was given to this Coast line, were similar to those submitted to and accepted by Messrs. MacKenzie & Mann, for the building of the Yukon railway, but it is at least consoling to know that by the rapid mining development which must follow the operation of a railroad through the Boundary Creek district that the general prosperity and wealth of the province will be enormously increased.

The amendments recently introduced to the "Companies Act, 1897," are chiefly of a technical character, very few radical changes having been made in the law. This may, perhaps, be regarded as a satisfactory indication that the Companies Act of last year has filled all requirements, and that the contentions made by many who opposed the passage of the original Act, that it would prove unworkable, were groundless. At the same time we venture to express the opinion that one or more further changes or additions might this session have been advantageously made, particularly in reference to company accounts, and six-monthly balance sheets.

A correspondent writes to the *Mining Record* from London complaining that the criticism which appeared in the April number of this journal, in respect to the Imperial Institute, was not altogether just. "It is proverbially difficult," he meanwhile submits, "to make bricks without straw," and adds, "take for example the B.C. mineral collection in the Institute. This collection was sent over in 1891, and arranged by Mr. Begg for Mr. Beeton, a few additional specimens being, however, subsequently sent over from Chicago by Mr. Law, these representing the ores only of the Fairview and Boundary Creek camps. Despite all efforts from this side, the collection is practically quite unrepresentative of B.C. mining of to-day. Indeed, part of the collection even dates back from the Colonial Exhibition of 1886. Both Mr. Beeton and Mr. Vernon have made representations on the subject, and pending the arrival of the long-promised additions, the utility of the display has been, as you can judge, considerably hampered. That visitors from British Columbia should derive an unfavourable impression is, under the circumstances, hardly surprising. In 1895, Mr. Beeton, in order to obtain sufficient room for the exhibits of fruit, furs, fish, and other products which it was understood were coming, acquired more space. This was in 1895, and the display was temporarily arranged, pending the arrival of these additions. In September it was arranged that a number of exhibits of the above character should be sent on as soon as they could be prepared, together with complete collections of ore specimens from the West Kootenay camps. Since then, I presume, circumstances have necessitated delay, for we are still waiting. The Hon. Forbes Vernon has, I know, given the subject constant attention. To rearrange the old mineral collection when the new specimens might arrive at any moment, was superfluous, and, so far, the new specimens have not arrived. The present arrangement is certainly very unsatisfactory.