

of the judiciousness or otherwise of these investments, and doubtless Mr. Macintosh was careful in his negotiations that his own judgment was fully endorsed by the opinions of men of maturer experience; the compliment nevertheless to Mr. Carlyle, who, remember, will be expected to make the properties thus purchased pay, seems to be of a very left-handed character. But obviously this is a matter more directly concerning Mr. Carlyle than anyone else, and it is therefore neither necessary nor perhaps proper to dwell further upon it here.

The question of filling Mr. Carlyle's place as Provincial Mineralogist upon his retirement on the 1st of April is already, we understand, receiving the consideration of the Government, and it is to be hoped that the appointment if possible will fall to one, other

NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS. conditions being equal, already having some acquaintance with and knowledge of the mining characteristics of the country. It may not

either be out of place to suggest that the appointee should be not only an expert geologist and mineralogist but also in every sense of the word a mining engineer, for it is hardly necessary to point out that the qualifications are distinct and that to be qualified to express an intelligent and correct opinion on the nature and character of rocks or minerals, is not a guarantee of engineering ability. Indeed there is an even wider distinction between the professions of the mineralogist and the mining engineer than between the professions of the physician and the surgeon, though in both cases it is, of course, possible to acquire a sufficient knowledge for the purposes of competency in either branch of these respective studies.

It was, in fact, Mr. Carlyle's special attainments in both callings that so peculiarly fitted him for his official duties under the Department of Mines, and it will be even more imperative in the future than it has been in the past that the office of Provincial Mineralogist should be held by a man of engineering capabilities. We have been asked by a number of correspondents residing in West Kootenay and other districts to suggest the appointment of Mr. Maurice Bucke, M.E., as Mr. Carlyle's successor. Without however, Mr. Bucke's permission we are, of course, not in a position to state whether he would be willing to exchange an extremely lucrative and interesting practice for the responsible and arduous duties appertaining to the official position of Mineralogist to the province, but we may, perhaps, with propriety remark that the professional record Mr. Bucke has made in Kootenay, the high reputation he enjoys, his indomitable energy and ability for hard work, warrant the assumption that his appointment would be popular with the mining community; it is therefore to be hoped that the Government will offer to him the vacant position.

Since the above was written, it is announced that Mr. McConnell, of the Geological Survey of Canada, has been offered and has accepted the appointment of Provincial Mineralogist. Mr. McConnell is a clever geologist and mineralogist.

February has witnessed the organization in Vancouver of a British Columbia Chamber of Mines—an institution that promises to become either a very use-

ful factor in promoting the welfare of mining in the province or—precisely the other thing. At the present writing there is every reason to hope for the best

CHAMBER OF MINES.

results from the future labours of the Chamber although it is rather regrettable that so large a majority of the gentlemen elected to serve on the first executive committee should be residents of the one locality. This will doubtless, however, be remedied in due course and was perhaps under the circumstances unavoidable. At the same time we are strongly of the opinion that the secretary of the provisional committee appointed at last month's meeting should have made it his business to ascertain whether some of the more prominent mining men of the up-country camps would have consented to undertake executive duty as members of the organization if asked to do so. That this was not done or even contemplated may be inferred from the fact that neither Mr. Hirschel Cohen nor Mr. Carlyle who were elected as committeemen to represent Victoria were approached beforehand regarding their willingness to act—a seemingly somewhat extraordinary mode of procedure. The representatives of Vancouver mining interests nevertheless deserve much credit for assuming the initiative in the matter of the organization of the newly instituted Chamber and for pushing it through for all they were worth. But now that a start has been already made it is time to take things rather more coolly and a first step should be to secure the good will and backing of the leading mine owners, managers, engineers and brokers of the Kootenays. *Verbum sap.*

MR. HEINZE AND THE C.P.R. Mr. F. Aug. Heinze's worst enemy would never accuse him of being a fool. He is indeed anything but that, and those who in all simplicity and kindness permitted themselves to pity him as the unfortunate victim of an unholy C.P.R. conspiracy have now discovered how wicked has been the waste of their sympathy, which might verily have been reserved for a far more needful occasion. Mr. Heinze, in fine, has come out of his deal with the C.P.R. with flying colours; he has not only sold his railway and smelter to advantage, getting his own price, but he reserves for himself the lands he received as a subsidy grant from the Government as reward for his enterprise in the Trail Creek district in addition to other valuable property, which may yet bring him in enough to more than cover the amount of his original capital expenditure on these two undertakings. Perhaps Mr. Heinze has to largely thank the Minister of Railways, Mr. Blair, in whose good graces he was fortunate to repose, for the fortunate turn of events in his favour—he has the happy knack of ingratiating himself with the influential—but be this as it may, Mr. Heinze deserves all he has got and he owes his success entirely to his own pluck and energy.

But while one can afford to congratulate Mr. Heinze on the favourable termination of his negotiations with the C.P.R. if recent telegraphic dispatches from Montreal announcing the company's intentions with regard to the operation of the Trail Railway and smelter may be believed, there are much stronger reasons to congratulate the miners and mine owners