

of the balance sheet you will not have failed to observe the item shares held in various companies stands at the handsome sum of £1,813,231.11.10, after deducting no less than £500,000 against possible depreciation. All the items on our list of assets are perfectly sound, and some are of a very promising character. During the past year we have made several public issues, all of which were fully subscribed. The first of these was the Le Roi mine, which is generally admitted to be one of the great mines of the world. Its former owners devoted themselves principally to extracting ore, and neglected altogether the due development of the property, both as regards timbering, shafting and introduction of adequate machinery. During the past year development work has been pushed in all directions, the mine has been largely re-timbered, and it has been equipped with the latest machinery and appliances. On the completion of work now in progress, the output will be very largely augmented, and what is equally important, we have every prospect of considerably decreasing the cost of smelting. Notwithstanding the extensive expenditure which has taken place for the foregoing purposes, the directors of the Le Roi have been able to commence the payment of dividends, an interim dividend of 5 shillings per share becoming payable on the 7th of November; and when once the mine is in full working order, we have little doubt that the results produced will fulfil our legitimate expectations. We have also had satisfactory reports from the other properties controlled by the British America Corporation, properties in which we are largely interested. These we have divided into three groups. Two of these groups, we are assured by our engineers, will shortly reach the dividend stage, and the third promises well. The general meeting of the British America Corporation itself will be held before Christmas, and I have no doubt of the directors being able to declare a substantial dividend."

How the dividends of the London and Globe Finance Corporation are to be limited to 10 per cent. per annum, under this heading the chairman said: "On reference to the balance sheet you will note that the balance to the credit of the profit and loss account amounts to £500,000 sterling. Were we therefore so imprudent as to divide our profits to the extreme limit, it would be possible for us to declare a dividend of 25 per cent. We have, however, adopted a sounder and more cautious policy, believing it to be much more to your interest in the long run to consolidate and strengthen the position of the company than to attempt the payment and distribution of such excessive dividends as would over-reach too freely upon the cash reserves, which it is desirable to hold at our disposal. We, therefore, recommend a 10 per cent. dividend, free of income tax, be declared."

It will be seen from the above that the 5 per cent. declared by the Le Roi is in addition and separable from the 10 per cent. declared by the great finance corporation, which is the parent concern; and it is thus made clear that no matter what criticism may be made about the London and Globe Corporation the Le Roi dividend has been based upon earning from ore production. We have Mr. Carlyle's assurance of this, but we have yet to be enlightened as to the facts with regard to the promised dividend of the B. A. C. Is this to be based on ore production or an advance in the company's stock?

It is announced that the Great Northern Railway intends to use every endeavour to establish a large smelter at Spokane, in which connection Mr. Hill will seek to divert to it as much of the ore as possible, which now goes to the C. P. R. smelter at Trail from Southern British Columbia. This attempt is to be furthered by the grant of specially low freight rates. Meanwhile it is to be expected that the Canadian Pacific Railway, as one of the roads interested in maintaining non-competitive freight rates on the Pacific division, will not allow the project to take definite form without a very determined protest. But with the advantage of cheaper fuel and the shorter haul on this side of the line, our local smelters should have no cause to fear outside competition for low-grade refractory ores, at any rate.

The price of War Eagle stock has latterly declined in average amount to about \$2.80 from, as was once the case, considerably over \$3. The stock is, however, held quite sufficiently high at \$2.80 on the present dividend bases, which yields a little over 6 per cent. Allowing for contingencies, a mine stock should more nearly approach a 10 per cent. dividend rate. Mr. Gooderham meanwhile declares, as the largest owner of War Eagle stock and a leading director of the company, that the present profits are sufficient to pay twice the present dividend of 1½ per cent. a month, which is really equivalent to rather over 18½ per cent. paid half yearly. Granting, however, that Mr. Gooderham's statement is correct, a War Eagle mine will not last for ever—and it is high time that a reserve or sinking fund, in gradual replacement of very considerable sum should each year be set to capital, not only by this company, but others boasting themselves dividend-payers.

The Boundary Creek towns are growing apace, and within a year Greenwood should have a population of five thousand and Phoenix at least half that number of residents. Phoenix—situated as it is in the very heart of Greenwood camp—has become quite a thriving centre of trade and activity within the last few weeks, and a correspondent informs us that its population is already over a thousand, and this, notwithstanding that as yet only four mines in the immediate vicinity have steady pay-rolls. The metropolitan character of Greenwood, meanwhile, may be judged from the fact that the Boundary Creek *Times* is about to appear as a daily issue.

An occurrence worth noting as illustrating a small beginning of big things in the Boundary Creek district, is the first all-rail shipment of ore. This was made from the busy little mining town of Eholt on the 16th inst., when a carload of ore from the Oro Denoro mine was sent to Trail for a smelter test. There had previously been a small ore shipment for Grand Forks, but the Eholt carload made the first sent "all-rail" since the obtaining of C. P. R. connections.

The reported organized importation of Italian mine workers into the Slocan seems to have been vastly exaggerated. Certainly no gang of alien labourers would appear to have arrived. Less than half a dozen men seem to have come in and some of these have since departed. Meanwhile, it is incumbent on the Dominion and Provincial authorities to do everything that is necessary to maintain law and order in