

already exceeded by nearly forty per cent. last year's output, while one mine alone, the Arlington, which has quite suddenly come into prominence and now heads the list of Slocan producing properties for 1901, has put out more ore in the last eight months than the combined production of all the mines of the locality during 1900. It can only be a question of time before local smelting is supplemented by local refining, and when the marketing of our lead as pig or in manufactured form will be in the hands of the British Columbia producer. Such a consummation is devoutly to be wished.

It is stated, on apparently good authority, that operations at the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Company's property, at Bullion, have been suspended for the season. If this information is correct all hope of a dividend distribution this year must be abandoned, as the returns from the two "cleans-up" will be little, if any, more than sufficient to defray the cost of working. These disappointing results, due to unprecedented scarcity of water, are the more regrettable as all the initial difficulties in connection with the equipment of the mine had been successfully overcome and shareholders naturally keenly anticipated the enjoyment of regular dividends to commence after the 1901 season, in consideration of a display of patient waiting extending over a period of five or six years. Under normal conditions these expectations would have been unquestionably realised, and although it is not likely that the difficulty occasioned by scarcity of water will again be experienced for a considerable time to come, some means will doubtless be found of dealing even with this exceptional drawback in the future. We confidently assert that the relatively unsatisfactory achievement of this year, will in no way influence shareholders in forming a less high opinion of the value of their property, or incline them to express less confidence in the management. The establishment of a reserve fund after this year, will no doubt be carried out, and thus enable the company to pay regular dividends even when operations are circumscribed by the incident of an unusually dry season.

The establishment of the Government Assay office at Vancouver has already been justified by results accomplished in the last two months, and the Board of Trade of that place is to be cordially congratulated on the success of its spirited exertions. A large amount of gold has been purchased by the office, deposits having been received not only from the Yukon, but from the interior of British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, including Edmonton, and also from so far away as Rat Portage, Ontario. While, however, the Assay office itself is doing an excellent business, and one object, that of inducing returning miners to bring their gold to a Canadian instead of to an American centre, is thus achieved, the institution as at present constituted is only partially useful. There is little advantage in merely refining the gold from our mines in Canada, if the

refined product is immediately exported as bullion. We were given to understand that the establishment of an Assay office for the receipt of gold dust from the Yukon and other Canadian gold fields was but preliminary to the establishment of a Canadian mint, whereby Canadian gold would be actually retained in the country as coinage. This policy should immediately be put into force to render the work of the Vancouver Assay office really effective to Canada as a whole.

We are in receipt of a copy of the *Anaconda News*, edited and published by Robert Keffer, a young gentleman *aetate* *xi*, the son of Mr. Frederic Keffer, general manager of the British Columbia Copper Co. at Greenwood. This newspaper, though of Lilliputian dimensions, being but 5½ inches square, carries, we are glad to note, a goodly proportion of advertisements, for two out of the three printed pages are occupied with trade announcements. The first page of the issue before us contains a most interesting account of the editor's visit to Knob Hill and Ironsides mines in Phoenix camp. As this report is quite as intelligible and as veracious, though not perhaps quite so voluminous (which is a decided advantage) as the majority of descriptive articles on the subject for which professional newspaper correspondents are responsible, we take the liberty of reproducing it *in extenso*:

"Recently the editor of the *News* took a trip to Phoenix, to visit the big Knob Hill and Old Ironsides properties.

"The first visit was to the glory holes on top of the hill. These are large quarries, in each of which a number of men are busy shoveling ore into mill holes that lead to the large tunnel below.

"After this we lost ourselves in the numerous passages and slopes of the Knob Hill tunnel.

"The editor was now too tired to continue explorations into Old Ironsides, and just took their word for it, that it was equally rich. After this we paid a visit to the office of the Phoenix *Pioneer*."

It is worthy of remark that our Phoenix contemporary has since published a detailed statement of the Ironsides and Knob Hill workings.

A journal published in Great Britain under the name of *British Mining* possesses, or claims to possess, a special correspondent in British Columbia whose headquarters are in Victoria. The correspondence published in this periodical from British Columbia, however, turns out upon closer examination to be taken word for word from the letter contributed weekly to the *Victoria Colonist* by a member of our staff. The wider that facts relating to the mining industry of British Columbia are disseminated the better, and no objection could be taken to utilising, in an English periodical, mining news appearing in the *Victoria Colonist*, or any other paper published in the Province. But to credit news so obtained to the efforts of a special correspondent appears to be a flagrant instance of unfair journalism.

Notwithstanding the low price of lead, exceptionally high transportation costs and other unfavourable conditions peculiar to the locality, a silver-lead mine in East Kootenay, the North Star, has been so successful-