

Our special correspondent writes that with characteristic caution and reserve the more influential of the members of the British Commercial party that lately visited the Boundary District refrained from freely expressing on the spot their opinions or impressions of what they saw at the several mines and smelters visited. Between very limited time and the fatigue consequent upon the unavoidable crowding of much sight-seeing into the few hours available, the district was not by any means given a "fair show," yet the most was made of the opportunity, notwithstanding its regrettable limitations. The Granby Company's big mines, situate at Phoenix, and the B. C. Copper Company's important Mother Lode mine, near Greenwood, were visited, and some idea of their extent, equipment, and producing capabilities was gained; a brief stop was made at the Oro Denoro and Snowshoe mines; the modern smelting works at Grand Forks and Greenwood, respectively, were inspected and much information was obtained; the Providence and Elkhorn, as typical of the high-grade gold and silver properties of the district, were given close attention; a passing sight was had of the volume of water impounded at Cascade, for the generation of electric power at the Cascade Water Power & Light Company's works there, and the utilization of that power at mines and smelters was seen; and the while questions were answered and explanatory information volunteered until the imperative "all aboard" of the train conductor called a halt to the giving and receiving of particulars of the industries that are all-important to the Boundary. A few of the visitors frankly stated that they were quite willing to put money into mining enterprises such as they had seen in operation in the district, but where could they obtain disinterested and thoroughly reliable advice to guide them? Again, why were some of the companies capitalized to a degree that in most cases appeared to conservative men of business excessive, and in others so very high as to make them fear that dividends, if paid, would necessarily return but a very small percentage on the money invested? Further, why are shares of a nominal value of one dollar issued as paid up on payment of only ten cents? Why not make the capital \$100,000, and thus have the real amount stated, not a fictitious \$1,000,000? These questions were not answered satisfactorily; rather was there a general disposition to admit that the over-capitalization thus objected to could not be defended. Yet despite these drawbacks a country possessing such immense and valuable mineral resources must, the visitors considered, be worthy of the attention of capital, so they would make further enquiries with a view to putting money into such enterprises as shall be well recom-

mended by those in whom they shall find themselves able to place confidence. The chief burden of their advice, when given, was that the confidence of British capitalists must be sedulously fostered, and once gained must be carefully maintained and fully deserved, and then all the capital requisite to the development of mines and the establishment of reduction works will be forthcoming. A fair run for his money is all that the average Britisher expects, but this he quite properly insists on having.

The use of electricity for power purposes in connection with mines and smelting works is gradually becoming more general in the Province. The power generated at Bonnington Falls, on the Kootenay River, by the West Kootenay Power & Light Company, has long been utilised at Rossland mines and at the Trail and Nelson smelters; the works of the Cascade Water Power & Light Company, on Kettle River, supply power to the Granby Company's smelter at Grand Forks, and to the Granby and Snowshoe mines at Phoenix, and now preparations are being made to substitute electric power from Cascade for steam at the B. C. Copper Company's smelter, Greenwood, with a probability of other establishments in the Boundary Creek valley also ere long taking advantage of this available power. The Granby Company in part provides at its power works on the North Fork of Kettle River the power for its smelter. The Silver Cup Company is about to generate electricity to run the 20-stamp combination silver mill it is erecting on the South Fork of Lardo Creek, near Ferguson. These are the more important mining and smelting establishments in the Province using electric power. There are others besides, and doubtless still more will follow before long.

Another alleged discovery of a deposit of hematite is reported to have been made at Quatsino Sound, to the north of Vancouver Island. The discovery of ore of this character at several localities has been announced from time to time for the past two or three years, but as yet without authentication, in some cases subsequent tests showing that the occurrences thought to be hematite were magnetite.

Apropos of smelting rates at Rossland these appear to be now about as low as can be reasonably expected, and the Northport smelter, instead of reducing has slightly raised the scale of charges on low-grade iron ores, and has signified to shippers that if they are dissatisfied with the new arrangement they are quite at liberty to take their ores elsewhere.