

wherever freight rates do not prohibit the use of this coke." In addition to the Kootenay and American markets, there is a strong probability that the product of the Crow's Nest Company's collieries will be used for fuel purpose by the ships of Her Majesty's squadron stationed at Esquimalt, the result of recent tests, we understand, being entirely satisfactory.

During the month it has been announced, apparently officially, from Montreal, that the construction of a branch of the Crow's Nest Railway will at once be begun, leaving the main line at a point five miles southwest of Fort Steele, passing through that town, and thence continued northward to Windermere, where rich discoveries of mineral have been made within recent times. This news is extremely gratifying, for there can be no doubt that the promising mineral-bearing country, of which Fort Steele is the centre, will henceforward contribute largely to the wealth of British Columbia. There are numerous rumours of the early building of a railway from Fort Steele up the valley of the St. Mary's River to afford shipping facilities to the North Star and Sullivan groups of mines. To reach these will necessitate the laying of twenty miles of rails, and beyond this point, and somewhat to the northwest lie the Pyramid-Kootenay mines—gold-copper properties—are of exceptional promise, although the progress of development work has not been very great.

Edward Boyce, the president of the Western Federation of Miners, which includes 25,000 mine-workers in its ranks, has recently visited Rossland, fortunately, however, not with any view to interpose in any labor trouble. In fact the noted labor leader's words while there implied that at Rossland the relations between mine-owners and workers are exceptionally harmonious, which augurs well for a continuance of the present generally satisfactory mining development of the Trail Creek district. Mr. Boyce complimented the Rossland mine-workers on being a fine body of miners, and also congratulated them on the fact that they were in general engaged by a considerate class of employers. Hence, there would seem to be no present fear of labor trouble in and about Rossland, or indeed in the West Kootenay generally. Meanwhile at points in Colorado miners' strike riots have recently assumed such serious proportions as to lead to desperate act of incendiarism and require the intervention of the military forces of the State. British law and order continue to tell in favor of our Provincial mining.

An early winding up of the affairs of the unfortunate Golden Cache Mining Company, Limited, is now expected, as a result of Dr. Carroll's successful action against the company for compensation in respect of services rendered as trustee. There are, it is understood, no moneys available to meet the judgment, and the mine property and appliances will, it is anticipated, be sold to meet this and some other cash liabilities.

In this connection it may be noted that a well-known resident of Vancouver, who recently visited England on mining and other business, reports that so well known to mining men and promoters in the British metropolis is the record of the Golden Cache, that it is sufficient in the opinion of many of them for

a would-be British Columbia promoter of a mining undertaking to have been connected with the Golden Cache, to cause a prompt refusal to look into the property of any new venture in which he may be concerned. Thus our informant states that when he recently submitted a mining proposition to London financial intermediaries, in connection with which there happened to be associated one who had been connected with the Golden Cache, something like the following reply was given. "Ah! I see, Mr. —, is connected with the properties. Was he the man of that name who had to do with the Golden Cache? If so, I can't touch the matter. He may not have been personally responsible for what happened, but to have been connected with the Golden Cache is enough. Can't do anything with it." The words above quoted do not give the exact literal rendering of the significant conversation, but accurately represent its general purport. It is also learnt that leading mining men in London who are interested in Pacific Coast development, are now in possession of fairly accurate information as to the status and antecedents of mine promoters on this side. Hence such as do not here possess fair credit in respect of past mining transactions will probably find future efforts to promote mining concerns in the London money market less easy than in the past.

The Act recently passed by the Provincial Legislature relating to an eight-hour day for miners is likely to lead to serious consequences. It is well known that the measure received but the feeblest support from the class that it was intended to benefit, and it is safe to say that had they ever dreamed that it might result in a reduction in their daily wage it would have been bitterly opposed. At present it is exciting the greatest hostility among mine-owners, it being hardly justice to expect employers to pay as much for eight hours' service as they did formerly for ten. From all indications the act was totally unnecessary and the proceedings of our legislators extremely ill-advised.

As we stated before, in alluding to the matter, it was hardly necessary for Mr. Ogilvie to deny that he was in any way connected with the wild-cat London promotion known as the British-Canadian Goldfields of the Klondike, Limited, as set out in the prospectus of that precious concern. But as he has emphatically and flatly contradicted having entered into any engagement with the English company in question, or in having supplied the promoters with any special information, as implied, it is to be hoped that if anybody was foolish enough to subscribe for the British-Canadian Goldfields of the Klondike, Limited, shares—which, however, in view of the prompt action of the High Commissioner for Canada is doubtful—they will at once demand the return of their money or prosecute the promoters for fraud.

Mr. Wm. C. Gates, better known as "Swiftwater Bill" of the Yukon, has been making his mark in quite a new capacity in London, having there recently been one of the guests of honour at a promoter's banquet, given to Mr. Macdonald, "The Klondike King." A photograph of "Swiftwater Bill," which appeared in a recent issue of the *British Columbia Review*, represents him clothed in the characteristic dressy attire of a successful London stockbroker or other smart metropolitan man of business. "Swiftwater's" best