

East Kootenay—namely, their unprofitableness—is in a fair way towards being removed.

Either the gentleman who recently arrived from Cariboo to attend to his legislative duties has been incorrectly reported in the daily press or he has been hibernating continuously for a number of years, if he thinks the suggestion said to be agreed upon by the miners of his district, namely, that all persons employed in any way in connection with a mine should be charged with a \$5 miner's license fee, will be seriously considered by the provincial legislature. With few exceptions, the members of the provincial parliament know so little of the mining industry of British Columbia that they fail to appreciate its growing importance, yet they are not at all likely to countenance such a retrogressive step. It may, we think, be taken for granted that neither the present nor any other government will venture in this way to arouse the opposition of the large numbers of working miners regularly employed in the mines of the province.

The Camborne section of the Lardeau district, long known as Fish river camp, is the subject of an interesting descriptive article contributed to the current month's number of the *Mining Magazine*, of New York, by Mr. Newton W. Emmens, E. M., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a specialist in gold, silver, lead and copper. The publication in this influential and widely-circulated mining journal of a carefully-prepared review of mining operations in a district giving so much promise of big mining potentialities as does the northern Lardeau, cannot fail to be of material benefit to Camborne and, indirectly, the whole of a large area which, though as yet comparatively little developed, made excellent progress in 1903-4 towards utilising its rich mineral resources. With three 10-stamp mills for treating gold ores and a 20-stamp combination silver mill, all successfully operated, the output of this district is steadily increasing and becoming an important addition to the mineral production of the province.

The finding of the Commission appointed to enquire into the charge made against Mr. Archibald Dick, one of the provincial inspectors of coal mines, was only what those who have knowledge of the conscientious manner in which that official performs his arduous duties were confident it would be—a complete exoneration, the evidence having failed to disclose any wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Dick. Not only was the charge, that while acting in the capacity of a government official he had accepted from the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company a retainer of \$300 per month, completely disproved, but His Honour Judge Spinks, who presided over the Commission, reported in terms of high commendation on the work done by Mr. Dick in his official capacity at the Crow's Nest collieries.

The St. Eugene mine's production of silver and lead in January is reported to have been larger than usual. The *Moyie Leader* gives the output of concentrates from the mill as having been 2,520 tons. Calculated at last year's average silver and lead content, this would show an output of about 3,360,000 lb. of lead and 83,160 oz. of silver, of a total value at New York prices for those metals of approximately \$180,000. During the latter part of the month the mill output was 120 tons of concentrate per day, which if maintained throughout a 30-day month, would at above-mentioned averages, give a monthly gross value of about \$250,000.

Press despatches from Dawson tell of drastic retrenchment of Dominion government officials in Yukon Territory. The diamond drill expert, a dozen or more mining inspectors, several mining recorders and three or four clerks in the gold commissioner's office are named as among the numbers who are stated to have been notified that their services are to be dispensed with. The offices of gold commissioner and public administrator are to be combined, and other economies effected in these departments. If such wholesale dismissals, of which the above-mentioned are but a part, are warranted, it would appear that mining the Yukon public treasury has been a distinct industry in that gold-producing region.

If it be a fact, as stated by the *Boston News Bureau*, that the Guggenheim Exploration Company has secured an option on a large block of the Montreal & Boston Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company's stock, and the result of the examination an expert mining engineer is understood to now be making of the latter company's properties in the Boundary district be such as to lead to the acquisition of the stock by the Guggenheims, this outcome of the Munroe & Munroe bankruptcy should be of decided advantage to the Boundary. Operations must be on a large scale in that district to make copper mining pay adequate profits, and no doubt they will be in connection with the Montreal & Boston if the Guggenheim Exploration Company obtains control.

The suggestions made by Mr. Geo. Huston, in a letter to the *Sandon Standard*, with the object of having a representative exhibit of British Columbian zinc products made at the exposition to be held at Liege, Belgium, this year, are well worthy of the consideration of all concerned in advancing the interests of zinc mining in the province. A good display of zinc ores and concentrates in the vicinity of one of the world's chief markets would be an excellent advertisement for this province, so it is to be hoped that it will be found practicable to adopt such an effective means of drawing the attention of European buyers of zinc to British Columbia as a source of supply.

Shareholders in the copper mining companies of British Columbia will be much gratified if the forecast regarding the prospects for copper in 1905, pub-