

superable, difficulties. There are three possible outlets for British Columbia zinc ores. One is the British or Continental market, the second is the United States market, and the third lies in the formation of a home market, in which the ore would be sold, and from which its contents would be marketed separately. The British market possesses the obvious advantage over the United States market that it allows to some extent for the silver content of the ore. But this advantage is not altogether decisive. The recovery of by-products in European smelters is far more an economy forced upon them by the fact that when foreign ores reach them they have become costly through freight and other charges than a result of superior practice or superior money making ability. It does not pay to transport ore from one end of the world to the other, and then throw away anything of any value it contains, even if complex and expensive processes are necessary to save its by-products. Shippers of zinc ore to Europe have had this impressed upon them by actual returns of a not particularly encouraging character. The smelters of the United States are eager to buy high-grade zinc ores. But they purchase them for the zinc and not for any silver they may contain. So far, the United States smelters have not shown any anxiety to establish works which would treat argentiferous zinc ores with the view of saving the silver. Argentiferous zinc ore is uncommon. If sufficient of it were procurable in British Columbia to form the base of a successful smelting industry in the United States, the zinc produced from this source would unquestionably be subjected to the penalties of an import duty. There is already an attempt being made in the United States to regulate the output of zinc ore. If high-grade argentiferous zinc ore from British Columbia came into competition with lower grade non-argentiferous zinc ore in the United States, who can doubt that, however inconsiderable the competition, the tariff would be adjusted so as to put an end to it. At present the European and United States markets seem to establish an equilibrium so far as our producers are concerned, which leaves them in doubt to which to ship, or whether to ship to either. The third choice, the establishment of a local industry, remains. This would naturally be from all points of view the best solution of the matter if it is at all practicable. Is there enough argentiferous zinc ore available in British Columbia to justify anyone in attacking the problem of treating it locally and saving both the silver and the zinc. It is undeniable that in British Columbia smelting facilities have tended to outstrip the supply of ore except in the Boundary district, where the problem has been reduction in the cost of smelting rather than an adequate supply of ore. Nor has the smelting practice in this province shown any lack of adaptation to new conditions. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that if, or we should say, when the problem of treating our argentiferous zinc ores locally presents itself in a form which demands and admits of successful solution, it will be attacked and solved as other problems not less difficult have been successfully met. To our mind the full and profitable

utilization of our resources in zinc ores lies still to some extent in the laboratory of the chemist. But we have no doubt at all that British Columbia will yet achieve another metallurgical triumph in this direction, and that another well-founded and stable industry will eventually enrich the mining industry of the province.

Mr. A. C. Garde, the president of the Silver-Lead Miners' Association, has meanwhile written a letter to the press, in support of the resolution recently passed by that organization, urging the Dominion Government to engage the services of a duly qualified expert to report on the whole zinc question so far as British Columbian interests are concerned. Although, of course, the Association did not actually suggest the name of any zinc metallurgist in particular to whom this work should be entrusted, Mr. Garde now mentions the fact that mine-operators in the Slocan had in view the appointment of Professor Ingalls, and he points out that not only would the report of such an undoubted authority be of inestimable value to those now engaged in the mining of zinc ores in the country, but also prove of advantage in securing capital for the further development of the industry.

THE MINING ASSOCIATION AND THE DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The *Inland Sentinel*, commenting on Mr. Leslie Hill's open letter published in our issue last month, addressed to the Vice-President of the Provincial Mining Association and our reference thereto, remarks: "Both Mr. Mortimer Lamb and Mr. Hill know perfectly well that in referring to the discussion on taxation by the executive in that strain, they are neither fair nor honest. It is pretty generally known that the Government, when asked to repeal the two per cent. tax, had asked the Association to suggest some alternative method of taxation, and in considering the subject, the executive did neither more nor less than their duty. It is all arrant humbug for Mr. Hill to prate about "socialism," etc. The trouble is that men of set ideas, like Mr. Hill, are not big enough to concede to others greater perspicacity than they themselves possess."

This is an important matter and should be fully dealt with. It is not what Mr. Leslie Hill or Mr. Mortimer Lamb think that's important; nobody probably cares. What is important is the point raised by Mr. Hill involving the policy to be pursued in future by the Provincial Mining Association if it, as an institution, is to have any weight or influence with the Government of the country. To have such weight and influence it must have the endorsement of practical mining men. A Mining Association of farmers would have no weight. Practical men wish to consider practical questions immediately and directly affecting the mining industry. They do not consider, for example, that they are called upon to advise the Government to adopt an entirely new system of taxation which would admittedly bear more heavily on other interests than upon themselves. In the case of the resolution introduced by Mr. Kirby at Kamloops, while we may personally be in sympathy with that gentleman's ideas on