

WAITING SPECIALISTS.

There are many specialist investigators now in B. C. seeking to ascertain and secure eligible opportunities for British capital, yet as a rule they are at present very slow indeed to advise action. The fact is that they are in many cases naturally perplexed—though unready as a rule to admit it—by the novel formations and, to them, new conditions presented by many of the precious metal deposits of the Province. Hence they are for the most part quietly waiting and watching, gaining meanwhile experience and knowledge. It is likely enough, therefore, that several months will elapse ere many big new investments of British capital in B. C. will be made at the suggestion of investigators now in B. C., and those most likely to know believe that more will be done in this way on their report during the quiet months of winter than during the remainder of our now waning summer and approaching brief period of autumn. "They also serve"—their clients—"who only stand and wait" is true of not a few of the genuine specialist agents of British mining capital who are now in our midst. There are other and more or less bogus investigators, of course, and we speak only of a moderately large number of good men with ample backing.

THE CASE OF ROSSLAND.

The Trail Creek Miner, commenting here-
 ant, says, speaking with the utmost plainness:

"It is a matter of common notoriety that the mining companies at Rossland are more in need of ore than they are of ore buyers. The total shipments from the Rossland camp from January 1st to July 31st of this year amount to 40,969 tons, or less than 195 tons per day. This is much less than half the capacity of the Trail smelter."

After this what the MINING CRITIC has said seems tame and reads so too. And this admission, be it noted, comes from the very district whereof Rossland is the centre. Clearly much more must therefore yet be done by the Rossland mining companies to justify the boast that the camp around the town is one of the world's greatest. The trouble is that on the strength of this boast the eyes of the world have been continually directed to Rossland as B. C.'s great

ed and rate as overboomed the whole Province. What, however, has done the worst harm of all, have been the numerous inaccurate statements and disappointing changes of front made by the present owners of the War Eagle.

The output of the Le Roi mine alone at present sustains something of the repute of Rossland, though we admit there are several other mines of much promise. But more than four or five large and good metal producers are needed to make a place one of the greatest mining camps in the world. Thus to approve itself Rossland and the connected railroad and ore treatment organisations must get a great move on in the very early future, or most will look elsewhere than to Rossland as one of the great gold centres of the Pacific North West.

REASSURED.

The Hon. Col. Baker, M.P.P., has, as Provincial Minister of Mines, disclaimed emphatically all intention to remove from Fort Steele to his own embryo townsite and settlement of Cranbrook the East Kootenay Provincial Government offices. Fort Steele is, he declares, entitled on grounds of public convenience to retain them, it being the principal town in southern East Kootenay.

This is satisfactory, but the matter should never have been in doubt, as we hope it never really was, despite the fears of the people of the Fort Steele district, who have in the past certainly been well treated by their representative, the gallant Colonel, as regards roads, trails and other requirements.

It is, above all things, essential that a Minister of the Crown should, in British Columbia as elsewhere, ever refuse to allow his public action to be subordinated to private interests. Action contrary to this essential of correct public service has too often been the bane of Canadian administrations, though the evil seems small in dimensions when contrasted with the giant proportions which it attains in the neighbor Republic. It is, however, well that increasing vigilance now generally marks the public notice of administrative bodies, large and small, in this Province of ours, since such an attitude ever proves a most effective check on malfeasance. Sometimes, of course, a public man's attitude is in consequence misconceived and criticised accordingly, but he can usually get himself right if