

spatch, while some of the money figures also suffered as to their accuracy. The 1906 coal output was 806,901 tons, not 213,295. Other correct figures in this connection may be found on page 123 of this issue.

From Juneau, Alaska, has been received a press despatch notifying the imminence of renewed labour troubles at the big Treadwell gold mine. The despatch runs: "A strike has been declared at the Treadwell Mines by the members of the Douglas City Union of the Western Federation of Miners. The action was taken only after an all-night and all-day session of the miners, carefully considering the conditions. A committee of miners called on Superintendent Kinzie, demanding an eight-hour day at \$3.50 for underground work, their own hospital and the control of the Miners' Club. The superintendent refused to receive the men, and declares that he will shut down the mine before recognizing the union. Organizer Terzich said the walk-out would include 500 men, as practically all of the miners have joined the union. For some time the union has been fighting for recognition. Last year the differences led to serious riots." Later news is to the effect that United States troops have been ordered from other Alaskan points to Treadwell, and that the striking miners have threatened to dynamite the big stamp mills if the troops come on the scene of the trouble.

The following has been taken from the Vancouver *News-Advertiser*: On March 2 a writ was issued against Henry Croft, Mrs. Henry Croft, James Lawson, Jun., and W. H. Berridge, the latter two being late directors of the Lenora and Mount Sicker Copper Mining Company, to recover the sum of \$30,000, the amount of a note given by the parties mentioned to James Breen. The note was given in 1902, and was discounted at the bank, but was dishonoured and had to be paid by Mr. Breen. Since that time interest has accrued to the amount of \$12,600. Messrs. Lawson and Berridge were sued in their private capacity, although they signed the note as directors of the company. The Provincial Legislature at its last session, enacted legislation which provides that when a director, manager or officer affixes a signature to a promissory note in his official capacity he shall not be liable as an individual. This has freed these two, but the remaining parties are still held liable. The time for the writ has not yet run. An application was made in chambers in Victoria asking to quash the writ as being irregular, but this was overruled with costs, payable forthwith. As these were not paid, another application was made for security for costs. This was granted to the amount of \$75 for each applicant.

After his return to Rossland, which district he represents in the Provincial Legislature, Mr. J. A. Macdonald, leader of the opposition, when inter-

viewed by the *Rossland Miner*, among other comments on the work of the session lately closed, remarked: "It may be of special interest to the people of Rossland to know that I have the promise of the finance minister, backed by the provincial secretary, that Rossland's claim to a larger share of the taxes paid by the mines in this city will receive special consideration. The Government has been made to see that by reason of the manner in which the Province derives revenue from the mines, Rossland has been placed in a most unfavourable position. We do not object to the Province obtaining a legitimate revenue from the mines, but when the city is deprived of the right, which other cities enjoy, of taxing the real estate, plant and machinery of its chief industry, so that the Province may receive a large revenue under the name of mineral tax, we say we are unfairly treated, and are placed with regard to taxation on a basis altogether different from that upon which the other large cities of the Province are placed."

On page 124 of this issue is printed a short account of a meeting at Blairmore, in the Crow's Nest District of Alberta, on March 10 of the joint arbitration board of the coal mine operators and miners which has been constituted as provided for in the agreement now in force between the Western Coal Operators' Association and the United Mine Workers of America. The board is a permanent one and consists of three members of the Operators' Association and a similar number of representatives of the miners. The discussion by this board of matters concerning which there shall at any time be a difference of opinion between the mine operators and their employees would appear to be a decidedly rational proceeding, and thus far results have been generally satisfactory, a mutually acceptable understanding having been arrived at upon most matters considered. In this way serious disagreement has been avoided and harmonious relations between the operating companies and their men have been maintained. A continuance of such a desirable condition of affairs is confidently expected, both parties showing a readiness to discuss in a reasonable spirit the various matters brought before them, thus favouring an amicable adjustment of differences.

Concerning recent Provincial legislation affecting the taxing of coal and coke, Mr. W. R. Ross, member for Fernie District, upon his return from Victoria, in the course of an interview with the *Fernie Free Press* said: "There seemed to be a misunderstanding on the part of the public with regard to the effect of the 'Coal Tax Act' so far as the same affects coal. The impositions on coal itself have not been increased. The tax hitherto charged on coal has consisted of a royalty of five cents per ton in addition to a tax of five cents per ton. Under the new law this has been changed to a straight tax of 10 cents per ton and the