

by the hand of officialism. "Nothing new" is the motto; "Nothing doing" the result. There are a dozen men, in the ranks of the thousands who are performing donkey work, in Imperial departments, who, if given an opportunity, would be useful assets where the thinking for the Empire is done.

Those who talk officially of Canada should know the Dominion. Those who advocate or denounce officially Chinese labor in South Africa should know the country. Those who prate and preach, officially, of the unrest in India should know their India. Those who assist officially to direct Australia should be cognizant of that continent. Too much trust is put in the cable. Imagine a man sitting in an armchair, thousands of miles from the scene he has in his mind, and directing this battalion to proceed at once to that district, or this official to confer, without delay, with that official. A cable message is easy to send. It is not always simple to carry out its instructions.

The Man on the Spot is too frequently overridden and overlooked. If he is worth his salt, he should be trusted. If not, he is unsuitable. Men who direct Imperial affairs should know their Empire. When they give orders, they should be able to realize what those orders mean. They should imagine themselves for a moment in the place of the recipient of those orders. Think what must be the disgust and heartburnings sometimes of the man on the spot. The wonder is that we do not hear more frequently of his resignation.

When a fellow is told to steer, he likes a hand near the tiller. A message from a superior, three thousand miles away, directing him to steer a south-westerly course, where he knows there are dangers, places him in a peculiar position. If he obeys orders, he meets trouble. If he disobeys, he meets worse trouble. And that is how crises arise.

No one would gainsay the claims of diplomacy. They are indisputable. Diplomacy, tinged with the essence of commonsense is the best thing in the world. When the Russian warships, a few years ago, made an unfortunate mistake in bombarding an innocent British fishing fleet, indignation in the British Isles was almost unrestrained. If you had polled the people of Britain as to whether they would war with Russia at that moment, there would have been a majority in favor of bloodshed. By a masterpiece of diplomacy the situation was saved.

Slovenly and ignorant methods have prevailed too long in official circles. There are welcome signs in Great Britain of a real appreciation of the potentialities and possibilities of its overseas possessions. Transportation facilities have improved. The interchange of official and friendly visits have increased in number. Linking up the Empire with fast steamships is one great thing. Linking it up with real horse sense is another. It is equally desirable, too.

Great Britain's prosperity has naturally created a luxurious nation. Luxury and hard work are not good friends. A revolution in British methods has been witnessed during the past decade. John Bull has continually told himself, "I am prosperous." With that reassuring assertion, he slid into slumber again. Now he sees that the prosperity is not his only, but is a world-wide prosperity. Other nations can truly say they are prosperous. Indeed, there is a chorus of prosperity. Increase of trade in many countries is almost as great as in Great Britain. This fact has given, it is hoped, an impetus to the vigour of the Motherland. Some of the huffer-mugger methods have been shorn of their false attractiveness by officials who think, and act. Innovations have been introduced, in the various Imperial departments, which ten years ago would have been considered a master stroke of impudence.

With the passing away of red tape and the worship of precedent we shall see a system of government—a government which vitally affects Britain's younger and far distant peoples—which will be a credit to the twentieth century.

REAL MINING.

"Mining is becoming more a settled business by the elimination, to a large extent, of visionary 'schemes.'" This is an extract from the annual report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia. The excitement of Cobalt stock manipulation has cast a shadow upon the merit of real mining in the Pacific coast Province. Not that legitimate mining is not in evidence at Cobalt. The weekly record of ore shipments proves the value of mining proper. But when many men are fast within the toils of a get-rich-quick craze, they are apt to overlook substantial developments in a country in which the craze has come and gone.

People who were in the British Columbia mining "boom" are not seeking to retrieve their fortunes at Cobalt. A reader of the Monetary Times has been persistent and bitter in his denunciation of mining in every shape and form. The industry, to him, is simply a money-making scheme for company promoters. Whereas, what mining means to the country is gathered from the fact that in 1871 the mineral production of the Dominion was valued at \$6,043,868, and in 1905, the figures for which year are the latest available, the value was \$68,574,707. Since that year, Cobalt has shipped ore in thousands of tons.

But this particular mining critic was in the British Columbia "boom." He was one of many hundreds who received a beautiful sheet of scrip, embellished with gold letters and impressive seals. He was one of many who received a dividend shortly after paying for his certificate. He was one who, not hearing news of a certain mine for many months, wrote to the secretary of the company. And he was one of the army who received the reply: "The treasurer and directors cannot be found. We have no office; we have no funds. For heaven's sake do not write us again—we have no money to pay the postage."

Now that the unhealthy excitement has passed, mining in British Columbia has become a thriving and legitimate industry. In 1890, just before the beginning of the exploitation of the quartz lodes, the total value of British Columbia's mineral production was \$2,608,000. Ten years later, this had increased to \$16,300,000. Last year, the value was \$23,980,000, being a record year for the Province. The value of the mineral production of all the Provinces combined, in 1906, was a little more than \$31,000,000. British Columbia's pre-eminence in mining spheres is at once apparent.

Almost all the minerals known in commerce are found in the Province. Large areas remain to be prospected. With more capital and more abundant labor the figures for 1906 should be surpassed. The production in 1906 was 11 per cent. greater than that of the previous year, and 42 per cent. greater than in 1903. Forty-one mines shipped in excess of one thousand tons each during the year.

The country looks to British Columbia for assistance in the solution of its coal problem. The actual production of coal in that Province was, until recently, confined to the collieries in the vicinity of the Crow's Nest Pass and the collieries on Vancouver Island. Other companies are now exploiting coal areas. The gross output of the coal mines of the Provinces last year was 1,899,076 tons. Vancouver and other Pacific coast cities felt acutely last winter the coal famine. The Province has practically at its back door immense coal areas. Capital, enterprise and labor are required. Reward awaits all three. The industry may have been hampered for lack of transportation facilities. The railroad companies recognize that British Columbia will grow and develop as their steel pushes its way through the forests and around the mountains, and are giving their opinions effect.

In the value of production for 1906, copper comes first, the figures being \$8,288,000. The high prices being realized for the mineral should give this particular

industry a great impetus. Gold comes second, with a value of \$5,579,000. Coal and coke come third, with the value of \$5,548,000.

The work of the Bureau of Mines increases year by year. The extension of the Province, the proportional increase of mines, the increasing desire of the information which the Bureau supplies to the districts and camps, and the appreciation of the fact that he may obtain; gratification of any rock or mineral which he may desire are some of the reasons why the office is so busy.

One cannot but wish that fewer of their money in the alleged exploitation of this vast Province. Very little that is to assist in real development. It is the banking accounts of a few enterprising scoundrels. But the record of real British Columbia is one of the most pleasing in the Dominion.

COMPLAINTS AND THE

Many complaints of the scarcity of money and higher prices charged for it by banks in various parts of the country. In some cases, it is presumed slight to a community in a town who did not obtain all the bank credit. Immediate formation of another bank is proposed "which should give adequate consideration to the wants of the West." In Vancouver, a proposal to establish "a bank that will be of the West in the West for West."

A Newfoundland paper strongly recommends a Canadian bank for raising its rates of interest. A journal suggests the establishment of a bank with the guarantee of the colony.

These communities appear to have a scarcity of money is world-wide, and it is universal. Merchants and manufacturers in Eastern and Central Canada are feeling that they cannot pursue opportunities for increase of business. It is not reasonable to suppose that they will arbitrarily raise rates for the mere sake of increasing the profits of one community.

There are other banks eager for the business of a community, in such a case, if its business is not so good, and there were just grounds for complaint. "enormous burdens are being placed upon the community."

Those in Western Canada who are specially "to serve the West," will remember that years ago the Commercial Bank of Manitoba was in Winnipeg. It was to be an independent bank of the then new country, the doors after a few years' operation.

The people of St. John's, New Brunswick, reflect upon the failure of local banks and the business of that Island, and the failures. The establishment of a Co-operative bank scarcely improve matters, as financial conditions of the world over must be affected by the same conditions.

EDITORIAL NOTE

When experts differ there is bound to be a difference of opinion. The Toronto waterfront problem, the bridges, and other transportation problems made a record as a hoary topic of discussion. It is chiefly concerned in deciding what is to be done. It has been apt to think of only what is best for the spirit of altruism is not usually found in big companies. Popular opinion votes