

which may be present in a transportation monopoly. The obvious remedy is strict legislative control such as is exercised by the Board of Trade in Great Britain, or in the last resort the nationalization of the monopoly in question. In many instances there are grave practical objections to this and until public sentiment is sufficiently enlightened to prevent the nationalization of railroads in Canada meaning their control by a political party for party purposes the less we hear about it the better in the interests of the country. To secure the greatest real economy in transportation a monopolistic system is the best; while to prevent the grave abuses which cluster round a monopoly exercised in the selfish interests of a corporation the powers of legislation should be ample.

There is no great advantage to be gained, however, in regulating an internal monopoly by legislation in the interest of the industries of mining and smelting if these industries are to be left at the mercy of an external monopoly over which we possess no legislative control whatever. It has been charged that a definite scheme is on foot to make the silver lead industry of the province tributary to the American Smelting and Refining Trust, an event not less injurious to the national development of Canada than the annexation of Canadian territory to the United States. The American Smelting and Refining Company claims to control the mining industry of British Columbia now; and its policy has been outlined as the control of the silver lead markets of the world. The interests of the Great Northern Railway as a transportation company are naturally bound up with the interests of the American Smelting and Refining company as an industrial monopoly. If an independent smelting and refining industry is built up in British Columbia then the main system of the Great Northern Railway can benefit but little in the transportation of ore. The ore, however, must follow the coal. If, therefore, the Great Northern Railway could acquire control of the coal supply and draw that into the United States channels of trade it is then in a position to draw the ore after it and secure a certain amount of business it is in danger of losing. When we consider the natural policy of the American Smelting and Refining Company, by which it means to carry out its intention of controlling the silver and lead market of the world, we see at once how a very obvious if somewhat near sighted, manoeuvre is to discourage the mining of silver and lead in British Columbia. To control an industry is to fix the price of the product paid to the producer, and also to fix the price of the product paid by the consumer. Such a monopoly as the American Smelting and Refining Company is in a position to arbitrarily decrease the profits of the producer and just as arbitrarily increase the contributions of the consumer. In order to fulfill its purpose the possibilities of production must be limited by the necessities of the monopoly, not by the opportunities of the Market. The silver-lead resources of British Columbia are the greatest of any portion of the world. They are sufficiently great, that is to say, silver and lead can be produced so cheaply in British Columbia, as to make it impossible for any combination to control the silver and lead market unless the silver and lead industry of this province is also under the thumb of the combination. The easiest way to do this would apparently be to place disabilities in the way of the production of silver and lead in British Columbia, to say in effect "the province shall produce just what we permit it to produce and no more." This policy, be it granted is near-sighted and therefore mistaken, but the mistake is a natural one because the capitalists of the United States erroneously place the commercial and industrial initiative of this country on the same level as they do those of Mexico. As we never have done anything for ourselves they jump not unnaturally to the conclusion that we never shall.

What now are the facts with which we have to deal? Coincidentally with the completion of the American Smelting and Refining Company as an industrial monopoly, we find the Great Northern Railway Company endeavouring to obtain control of the management and output of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal fields, not merely of the mines owned by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, but of all the other undeveloped coal lands in that neighborhood. We also find the American Smelting and Refining Company raising the values upon the produc-

ers of silver and lead in British Columbia; and lest this should merely lead to the establishment of lead smelters in the country itself correspondingly raising the rates on the refining of lead bullion. These things are not susceptible of any explanation, save one, namely, that the interests of the Great Northern Railway and of the American Smelting and Refining Industry, are not identical with the interests of the mining and smelting industries of British Columbia. It is not necessary to accuse these corporations of any calculated malignity towards British Columbia. They are merely carrying out a line of policy which they conceive to be the best for their own interests, which do not happen to coincide with our advantage at the present time. They are neither more nor less selfish than our own transportation and industrial monopolies. But while our own monopolies may be controlled by legislation, when likely to militate against the public good a foreign monopoly cannot be so controlled. Their action, however, upon our resources and upon our industries may and must be regulated by a fiscal policy which will prevent Canada from remaining a hewer of wood and drawer of water to industry located and centralized in the United States. Industrial independence must be the watchword of Canada; and the earliest manifestation of an industrial independence will be found in delivering the country absolutely and eternally from the control of any foreign industrial monopoly like the American Smelting and Refining Company. This cannot be done satisfactorily or permanently by preventing commercial intercourse with the United States. But it can be done and it must be done by a fiscal policy which will enable Canada to go into the business of refining lead and silver for itself. Do we not possess all the raw materials, all the accessibility to the world's markets which are required? Must we arrive at the melancholy conclusion that what we lack is the industrial initiative necessary to enable us to utilize our own resources and advantages to their fullest capacity?

The promised amendments to the Placer Mining Act have, this month been brought down by the Hon. the Minister of Mines, in a bill entitled the "Placer Mining Act Amendment Act, 1901." While in many respects the changes as introduced in this measure commend themselves to us as being in the interest of miners of shallow diggings, there is nothing to indicate that the requirements of enterprises operated on a large scale have been considered. For example, it was urged very strongly that freehold in the place of leasehold rights should be granted to locators of hydraulic ground and deep workings under certain conditions. But apparently the government has decided that no change can be made in this regard. Hydraulic undertakings and deep level workings cannot, however, in our opinion, be classified under the same head as shallow placer mining when little capital comparatively speaking is required. In enterprises of the former nature the conditions of exploitation and development are not so widely different as those governing the opening up of a lode mine, and failing special legislation, which is nevertheless essential, the application of the Mineral Act to the operation of deep placers would be certainly preferable to bringing them within the scope of a Placer Mining Act, which entirely ignores their needs. Applied to the individual miner the proposed amendments to the laws governing placers are admirable enough; applied to corporate enterprises they are futile and worse—for one of the new clauses (section 18), would have the direct effect of further restricting capital from engaging in placer undertakings on a large scale. Meanwhile we quote the more important changes: Part II, section 7, provides that:

"In 'creek diggings' a claim shall be 250 feet long, measured in the general direction of the course of the stream, and shall extend from high water mark on one bank to high water mark on the other, but when such high water marks are less than 250 feet apart the claim shall be 250 feet square:

"In 'bar diggings' a claim shall be:—

"(a.) A piece of land not exceeding 250 feet square on any bar which is covered at high water, or (b.) A strip of land 250 feet long at high water mark and in width extending from