

and the several larger camps of the Yukon from which prospectors may work. This additional assurance of the probable permanence of the Atlin gold-fields is, therefore, welcome, for the more men there are permanently employed and the more gold recovered in that section, the more encouragement will there be for persistent prospecting for other payable fields.

The construction of a second railway to connect Boundary district mines and smelters is now in progress, much to the satisfaction of mine-owners and others directly concerned in securing a reduction in railway freight charges. That a lower rate on ore will result is taken for granted, and this is an important consideration, since in the utilisation of immense bodies of low-grade ore the saving of every cent per ton possible is imperative. But this is not the only advantage that will accrue to the district, for both mines and smelters will also be greatly benefitted by the provision of increased facilities for transportation of Rossland ores to the Boundary smelters and Boundary ores to the Northport works, which interchange of ores will secure to the smelters a better smelting mixture with resultant mutual advantage in the direction of the increased tonnage it will be practicable to smelt at reduced cost. Further, the building of a spur from the Great Northern system to the Granby smelter will make it possible for those works to obtain a coke supply over that railway when necessary. The C. P. R. has undoubtedly been the chief factor in the very considerable development that has taken place in the Boundary during the last four or five years, but a monopoly is never a good thing for those who do not possess it, whether in railway or any other business, so the breaking of this monopoly is gladly hailed in the parts of the Boundary affected by it. That the Great Northern will be encouraged to further extend its lines in the big copper-producing camp of the Dominion is much to be desired.

The Director of the Geological Survey calls attention, in the recently-issued Summary Report for 1903, to the fact that by far the largest proportion of the work of the Survey is directed to investigating and aiding the development of the mineral resources of the country. He claims that results have shown that the various regions for the field of operations of the season 1903 were judiciously chosen, and that the several portions of work done proved to be those most needed to meet present requirements. Our purpose in here noting this claim is not to question it. Indeed the knowledge that experienced and fully competent members of the Survey were last year engaged in field-work in the comparatively little-known Lardeau country, studying its topography and geology; in the Rocky Mountains, seeking a supply of coal near the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway; in the Peace River region, ascertaining the true character of the land and climate of the upper or western portion of that section, now outlying but which may a few years hence be traversed by a transcontinental railway; in the Yukon, seeking information looking to the provision of a better water supply, upon which

depends the maintenance of a large production of gold in that district in years to come, as well as in investigating evidence of the local origin of the gold of the Klondike area; and in the very necessary work of locating the 49th parallel in the western mountain region between this Province and the State of Washington—this knowledge itself is testimony to the recognition by the Survey Department of the importance of the Pacific slope portion of the Dominion as regards its economic mineral resources. The acknowledgment of this recognition is a pleasing duty and one that we have much gratification in performing. We also acknowledge, with much appreciation, that this season, too, British Columbia and adjacent territory have been allotted a liberal proportion of the members of the Survey, and we look forward to the west benefiting considerably as an eventual result of their arduous labours.

In the summary report of the Geological Survey Department of Canada for 1903 appears a suggestion, made to the Minister of the Interior, by Dr. Robert Bell, Acting Deputy Head and Director of the Survey, which is of especial interest to British Columbia. This suggestion proposes a permanent exhibit in New York City of a collection of the economic minerals of Canada. Dr. Bell's recommendation—for it may be regarded as such—is timely and thoroughly practical. It is as follows: "As much of the capital for the development of the mineral wealth of Canada has heretofore come from the City of New York, and as it would be very desirable to encourage further interest in our mines from this quarter, it may be advisable, considering the small cost that would be incurred, to place a collection of our economic minerals on permanent exhibition in that city. Looking forward to the possibility of this, I conferred with Professor Bickmore of the American Museum of Natural History on the subject, and found that he was very favourably disposed to assist in this proposal. If the matter be followed up, it may result in the establishment of a valuable agency there at very trifling cost. A similar collection is already installed at the Imperial Institute in London under the care of Professor Dunstan, Director, and Mr. Harrison Watson, Canadian Agent. "Already the development of the mineral resources of British Columbia has been materially contributed to by American capital. For instance the most productive copper camp in the Province, and for that matter, in the Dominion,—the Boundary district—owes much of its development to American capital, for the British Columbia Copper Company, owning the Mother Lode mine and the smelter at Greenwood, is a New York organization, while the big mining and smelting enterprise of the Granby Company has received financial aid from the United States towards the accomplishment of its later important results. Numerous other instances of the expenditure of American money in British Columbian mining undertakings might be mentioned were it necessary to narrate them, which it is not, since many of them are well known to mining men of the Province. American enterprise appears to generally be more suc-