

branches, each with as competent a head as it is possible to secure, and all under the direction of a Minister of Mines or other cabinet minister. The work of such a Department of the Dominion Government need not interfere with the work of the respective Provincial Governments, nor encroach upon their rights in this connection. Although persistent action in this direction is only what is to be expected of so competent and influential a body as the Canadian Mining Institute, it is none the less gratifying to British Columbia, the "Mineral Province," to find leading members of the Institute keeping well in view and advancing to the best of their ability the interests of the mining and metallurgical industries of the Dominion at large.

A contemporary calls attention to the fact that the development of the vast mineral resources of Colorado has been very materially aided in many instances by the utilization of the mountain streams of that State for the generation of electricity to furnish power for mining purposes. The intermittent character of the flow of those streams, however, has been the most serious drawback to the extended use of water-power in that part of the Rocky Mountains. For placer mining purposes, though this is not felt to be so great a disadvantage, since this class of mining is chiefly carried on in the summer, at which season there is usually a good flow of water. The principal uses to which hydro-electric power is applied in placer mining are to drive pumps, operate cranes, and furnish motive power for motors for the machine shop and other purposes. The current is also utilized in lighting pits, buildings, etc. In British Columbia electricity is used but little in placer mining or hydraulic mining, its chief application where generated by small water-driven plants, being at stamp mills at gold mines and at concentrators in silver-lead districts. The comparatively small flow of water during winter is a decided disadvantage in connection with these branches of mining, particularly the latter, for freight costs are much lower in winter in the chief silver-lead districts of the Province. Several important mines have auxiliary steam plants for use in such an emergency as insufficiency of water. Notwithstanding the drawbacks mentioned, though, water-driven electric plants greatly facilitate mining and ore-reduction operations in British Columbia.

That British Columbia has not been alone in having experienced during recent years conditions unfavourable to successful hydraulic mining is evident from published references to other countries on the American continent in which similar operations have been unprofitable, as were the results obtained at some of the larger hydraulic mines of this Province. Lately the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of New York, mentioned editorially that "Several successive dry seasons have worked much hardship to the gravel miners of California, whose water supply has lasted only about half the usual time." It is a poor consolation to know that a like misfortune has been the lot of others, and we take no comfort therefrom. Rather

would we suffer loss alone than feel gratification that others were made to experience a similar misfortune. It is quite permissible, though, for us to rejoice with them in that the season we are just entering upon bids fair to be as busy and successful with them as with our own hydraulic miners. We learn that in California "The streams are all full to the banks, and there is an abundant supply of water for washing gravel in all the counties where such mining is being carried on. In the higher ranges the supply of snow stored by the winter storms is quite satisfactory, and, unless warm weather prevails too soon, the water season this coming summer will last longer than has been the case for several years past." This intelligence is in line with that we have received lately from the Cariboo and Atlin districts, the prospects in which are brighter for hydraulic mining, ground-sluicing and placer mining generally than in any year since 1900. Having this common ground for satisfaction we can, and do, extend to the placer miners of California our hearty congratulations that they too may look for a long working season and, we hope, a corresponding good return.

The judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Martin in the mining case of *Tanghe v. Morgan et al.*, serves to emphasize the point we have so frequently raised in the *MINING RECORD* concerning the desirability of the appointment of a commission to enquire into the working of the mining law with a view to reconciling at least its most glaring inconsistencies and ambiguities. Until this is done either by a Legislative committee or preferably by a Board of specialists appointed for the purpose, the industry will be cursed with much unnecessary litigation, and legitimate operations must continue to be at the mercy of every scoundrel who takes the pains of ferretting out defects in the law for blackmailing purposes. The case of *Tanghe v. Morgan* is an interesting one. Last July the now well-known Lucky Jack claim in the Poplar Creek District, was located as a quartz claim. The ground was believed to be very rich, the surface showings being exceptionally promising, and in one spot the quartz outcropping contained a quantity of visible gold. Some two months later Tanghe located the Shamrock placer claim within the boundaries of the Lucky Jack quartz claim. His action occasioned general indignation among the miners of the locality at the time, and when the district Gold Commissioner ordered the removal of the Shamrock stakes, "under authority of Section 128, Sub-section G, of the Placer Mining Act," on the grounds "of the annoyance and interruptions to which the owners of the Lucky Jack mineral claim would be put by the Shamrock Placer claim crossing their lead," the mandate was regarded as an eminently just and proper one. By the order, however, Tanghe's location was so changed as not to include a square inch of the ground originally applied for, and the Gold Commissioner, of course, as is pointed out, largely exceeded his authority in issuing the instructions he did. According to the judgment Tanghe was in fact entitled to a record of his location, the only question