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THE MONTH.

DURING late years very successful mineral exhibitions, to which large collections of sample ore: from most of the districts of the province were sent, have been held in Spokane, Washington. These exhibitions, being excellently managed and widely advertised, were consequently largely attended by mining men from all parts of northwest America and the British Columbia department invariably claimed a great share of attention and the province's resources were thus made known to better advantage than would have been the case had merely local exhibits been given in British Columbian towns. This year, however, while there certainly is no reason why the usual British Columbia collection should not be sent to Spokane, the conditions are such that the very best results may reasonably be expected to accrue from the holding of an industrial and more particularly a mineral exhibition on a large scale in the province itself. But of course if this is worth doing at all it must needs be well done, and neither time should be lost nor effort spared towards carrying the project to a successful issue. The idea may be elaborated to almost any degree and such special features as lectures on the mineral resources, the mining laws, the opportunities for investment in the country, would, we think, be also highly appreciable. If we accept the estimates that have been published of the number of people who will this spring and summer pass through the province *en route* to the northern gold fields as correct it means that at the lowest computation the influx of strangers will in the aggregate considerably outnumber the present population of British Columbia,

and this gives one a fair conception of what the Klondyke excitement means. It may be safely concluded that a tolerably fair proportion of these visitors—if once they can be brought to see that to those among them possessed of small capital and moderately endowed with the necessary qualities of industry and perseverance the chances of well-directed energy finding its reward are eminently surer here than in the Yukon, will wisely decide to go no further afield. By taking advantage of this mad rush to the frozen north much may be accomplished towards populating our own province with a sturdy and altogether desirable class of settlers. A plan that would certainly, we believe, tend to awaken interest and elicit enquiry we have already submitted, and we commend the suggestion to those whose position in the country and influence would enable them to give it tangible form.

Mr. Carlyle's resignation this month of the important office he has so ably filled for a period now of nearly two years, as Provincial Mineralogist, and his acceptance of the responsible position of consulting engineer and general superintendent to the British America Corporation must of course be included among the notable occurrences of February. While,

perhaps, it will be no easy matter to

MR. CARLYLE supply Mr. Carlyle's place in the AND Bureau of Mines, and to find another THE B.A.C. his equal in tact, in technical knowledge, in practical experience; one, in

short, endowed with the special combination of qualities which fit a man to fill an extremely difficult and sometimes thankless post successfully, we are by no means uncertain that Mr. Carlyle's decision can not be regarded, from the point of view of provincial mining interests, as the best thing that could have happened. As we showed last month, upon the success or failure of the operations of the British America Corporation—the most powerful financial organization yet formed in London to engage in British Columbian mining enterprise—depends very much more than is generally realized the extent in the immediate future of the investments of British capital in the province, and we expressed then the hope that the company's managing director, Mr. MacIntosh, would see the urgent necessity of engaging the services of a mining engineer of unquestionable ability and competence upon whose judgment and advice he might safely rely, and thus reduce to a minimum all chances of loss and disappointment his company might experience. It is, therefore, very gratifying to discover that Mr. MacIntosh had also appreciated the wisdom and advisability of this course and now it only remains for us to congratulate him upon his wise choice of an adviser and on his good fortune in being able to secure one so thoroughly well-qualified to assume the duties. There is, however, one point that to the outsider may appear somewhat remarkable, that Mr. MacIntosh, after deciding to retain the services of a mining engineer, should have continued to buy up properties for the company. We express no opinion