

that the very same circumstance which makes many points equal or nearly equal in respect of fuel and fluxes makes many points equal or nearly equal in respect of supply. It is not too much to suppose that the possession of a great water power will counterbalance a possible slight inequality in proximity to the mines, while the location of some of the properties controlled by the company, would, in any case, justify their selection from their point of view. In fact there is room for smelting at both points. At both points it should be successful and profitable. Any special success at either will depend more upon the business management of the respective concerns than upon any superiority of location. Rivalry in this respect the country may view complacently because the keener it becomes the more the country as a whole will benefit.

The present year will be more remarkable for an increase in the number of producing mines and an expansion in the sources of the supply of the precious metals throughout the province than for any large increase in the amount of gold, silver, lead and copper produced. The great increase in tonnage expected does not appear likely to be realized. For the first five months of the year Rossland has shipped in round numbers 50,000 tons. An average of 15,000 tons for the succeeding months may be relied on from the Le Roi alone. This gives Rossland a certainty of 155,000 tons for the year. It is now evident that whatever output the War Eagle and Centre Star contribute this year, will be compressed into the last quarter of the year. It is unlikely that regular shipments will be resumed for three months yet. The hoisting machinery on the Centre Star main shaft is now almost in working order, but the company is still waiting for its compressor plant and it appears to be doubtful how much longer it may have to wait. A suspicion is abroad that the machinery is not made yet. The same vexatious delay is taking place with regard to the Black Bear compressor for the Le Roi company. The fly wheel and the blue print are the only parts received as yet. But fortunately the Le Roi is not so absolutely dependent on this machinery as the Centre Star is. Pending its arrival little or nothing can be done. It is quite clear that it will require heavy shipments from the War Eagle and Centre Star during the last quarter of the year if the tonnage of 1899 is to be largely augmented. For some reason or another the Slocan country is taking a long time to rally from the effects of the long shut down. The total tonnage produced so far this year is very small. The rate of production is very little greater since the settlement of the labour difficulty was effected than it was before. During last year the Slocan shipped in the neighborhood of 19,000 tons of ore and concentrates. This year so far 7,000 tons covers the output. If the Slocan does not produce 25,000 tons this year it will disappoint reasonable expectations formed of the capacity of the country. One of the large producers in the province, the Hall Mines, has gone temporarily out of business. The question of profitable production in that instance being put aside it will require quite a tonnage from other sources to counterbalance the effect of its defection upon the gross output of the country.

There are several very hopeful features in the situation, however. The St. Eugene at Ymir is producing and shipping between 50 and 60 tons of rich silver lead concentrates every day. It has already marketed over 1,000 tons and should add to the pro-

vince's production of silver and lead at least 8,000 tons of concentrates during the year. As silver lead producers the North Star and Mollie Gibson have also to be reckoned with. The Nelson district will also receive considerable assistance from the production of gold bullion within its boundaries, particularly from the doubled capacity of the Ymir mill. The Ymir must now be considered one of the great mines of the province. The Boundary country is an unknown quantity. Its effect upon the total production of 1900 will however be relatively very small. The best to be hoped from it is that towards the close of the year a rate of production will have been established which will be a guarantee for future years even if it does not much affect the present. Again there is the Lardeau country from which the tonnage exported is as yet purely insignificant. Upon the development of all these districts the failure of British Columbia to attract foreign capital is reacting severely. There is no question but that with an adequate flow of capital the mineral output of the country would increase from year to year much more rapidly and not less steadily than it does. In endeavouring to attract capital the people of British Columbia and particularly the government have shown criminal neglect. To discover the best means of inducing investment and once discovered to apply them strenuously is at the present time more important than any question of internal policy. It is a relief to see that politicians of all shades of opinion have at last opened their eyes to the question.

On more than one occasion we have had reason to refer to the slipshod manner in which too many of our local mining companies are conducted and which calls for something more than mere protest. It is about time that if we have laws on our statute books to regulate these matters that they should be enforced. A case in point is the Boundary Creek Mining & Milling Co. of Greenwood. The shareholders seem to be kept absolutely in the dark as regards the operation of this concern and we are informed that even the secretary is, or professes to be, unable to give information when applied to. That the company is still in existence may be presumed from the fact that some valuable ore was recently shipped from one of its mines near Greenwood. Meanwhile in the hope that it may stir up the officials of the company to a proper sense of their responsibilities, we publish the following letter from a correspondent, subscribing himself "Scotch Investor."

"I would be very much obliged to you if you would kindly through the columns of the RECORD inform me and other small shareholders in England as to the status of the Boundary Creek Mining & Milling Company, the head office of which is at Greenwood. Being one of those who bought stock in this concern in 1897 and having received absolutely no information since then as to the operations of the company, any information you can afford me will be extremely welcome. Are not the directors of mining companies in your Province obliged to call annual meetings and issue annual reports and financial statements?"

Writes our Boundary Creek correspondent:

"In the April issue of the 'RECORD' you directed attention to the apparently unwarranted action of Mr. Duncan McIntosh, the then managing director of the Winnipeg Mining & Smelting Co., Ltd., own-