

with a view to reduce the danger of a large further orientalization of our British Columbia community. They know how easy it may be for Japan, with a population of 40,000,000 people, vast numbers of whom live at home in a state of semi-starvation, to swamp our present working while population. An influx of 60,000 Japanese would at once accomplish this, and such an emigration the greatly overcrowded islands of Nippon could easily send forth in the course of less than one short summer. The chance of such a contingency is of course greatly increased by the fact that Russia, Germany and France together mean to reduce to a minimum Japan's chances of finding large new opportunities in China for her surplus population.

Complete accident compensation to the colliery workers of the United Kingdom would seem to have been effected under the Employers' Liability Act, which comes into force in July, on terms that should be very easy to the colliery owners, if they will only insure their workers, yet terms that will provide very fairly for the latter in case of accident. Such insurance will add, it is said, one penny or two cents a ton to the cost of coal at the pit mouth—probably about 2 per cent. on value. This difference, which means everything to the colliery worker, will not add very greatly to the coal bills of consumers. Under similar legislation, which might well be adopted some day in British Columbia, especially in the case of our collieries, similar compensation might probably be secured at an insurance cost of about 6 cents a ton.

The Victoria 'Times' editorial writer has lately done good service to the Province in speaking frankly as to the state of the various Klondike routes, including that by the Stickine, it being worse than folly to suppress facts. It were well, however, were he equally careful not to suppress facts when talking, as he too usually does, uttering nauseating nonsense at random, concerning the exploits of British arms in Egypt and the Soudan, where a triumphant victory is now being gained for freedom and civilization against a horde of Arab marauders and murderers, who have long preyed upon the hapless Soudanese. The Victoria 'Times' stigmatizes one of the noblest wars ever waged in the cause of humanity, as a campaign of murder and altogether unworthy of our great empire. All which shows that though the Victoria 'Times' "young man from Glasgow"—whose people are unlike himself in being unusually levelheaded—has acquired some knowledge of the Klondike, he has yet everything to learn about the work which British valor and British enterprise are together accomplishing on the plains of Egypt.

A COAST SMELTER LIKELY.

Messrs. Vivian & Sons, of Swansea, South Wales, and the Elliott Metal Company of Barry Port, near Swansea, have, as a result of the success of trials, decided to come into the British Columbia market for the purchase of all kinds of ores and furnace products. They have arranged for sole representation through Mr. W. Pellew Harvey, F. C. S., of Vancouver, who has for several years been acting for the former firm. Principals of these firms are now en route for this country to study the possibilities of making a success of erecting smelting works for the local treatment of the produce of the mines. In the meantime it has been decided to pay spot cash at Vancouver through their agent, on his certificate of assay and weight, for any quantity and quality of ore. Shipments of over 250 pounds in weight will be accepted and paid for at current rates. By this means the prospector will be in a position to obtain assay certificates, endorsed by these firms, at a nominal cost, the basis being such that the value of the parcel will be placed against the usual assay fee and the balance forwarded to the shipper.

Mr. Pellew Harvey is increasing his plant, and intends to undertake any kind of ore testing on a large scale, including the milling of gold ores, as well as smelting ton lots of ores, also melting and refining of gold and silver bullion. The plant, when completed, will be the most complete for metallurgical tests in Canada.

THE DUTY ON OUR LEAD EXPORTS.

It is estimated that the United States imposed duty to the extent of \$36,783.75 on British Columbia lead shipped across the border in March. The time has surely come for a counter vailing duty on lead imported into our own country, a duty which should also aid our declining silver-lead smelting industry.

LUXURY IN BEDDING.

Travelers in Canada visiting the Ancient Capital have often remarked on the perfection of the bedding in the Chateau Frontenac, at Quebec. It is said to be the most luxurious bed in existence, being made on sanitary principles and embodying all the newest inventions in springs and upholstery. It is the same bed as supplied to the Waldorf Astoria, the Palace Hotel of New York, and was made for the Chateau Frontenac by the Alaska Feather & Down Company of Montreal.

Dealers, private persons or institutions wishing to receive a description and price list of this bed may get it by writing to the secretary of the company at their office, 290 Guy street, Montreal.