

Thos. Kiddie, manager of the Tye Copper Company's smelter, Ladysmith, as exceedingly interesting from a metallurgical standpoint, showing, as it does, the practical results obtained in smelting an ore carrying more than 35 per cent. of barium sulphate. This ore is described as unique in character and its treatment as presenting a problem not met with, so far as could be learned, elsewhere. With no previous experience, either of his own or of others, to guide him in treating this ore, Mr. Kiddie's work was for a time largely experimental. As showing the material improvement he has made in smelting this ore it may be mentioned that Mr. Kiddie succeeded in raising the treatment capacity of the furnace from a daily average of 177 tons during the period covered by the last annual report published by the company to one of 249 tons during six months to the close of April last. On another page we give Mr. Kiddie's absolute average figures of the results of his furnace work during the latter period.

The members of McGill Summer School of Mining completed their month's outdoor course for this year about May 24th, on which day they reached the end of their arranged programme. The final day was spent at Cascade visiting the power station there, the waters of Kettle River being utilised at that place for the purpose of generating electricity for the motive power for mines and smelters in the Boundary district. Most of the students have arranged to spend some time at practical work in one or other of the mines visited in the Province. Dr. Porter and his assistants have left on their return to McGill University, Montreal. Mutual advantage to British Columbia and the mining students must result from the visit of the school—the Province will benefit by having first-hand information relative to a number of its important mines and smelters disseminated wherever the visitors shall make mention of what they saw of mining in British Columbia, and the students were enabled to witness modern methods in mining, concentrating and smelting and particularly to learn something of the systems and economies that make it possible to turn to profitable account ores that in several instances are of lower grade than it is customary to mine and treat. Thanks are due to mine and smelter managers and all others who co-operated with Dr. Porter to secure the accomplishment of the purpose of the visit of the Summer School. It is pleasing to have assurance that the visitors fully appreciated the attention shown to them.

The Rossland Board of Trade recently unanimously endorsed and adopted a proposal made by two prominent local mine managers to the effect that the Dominion Government shall authorise the Geological Survey of Canada to make a detailed structural survey of the mineralized portion of the Rossland district. The memorial prepared for submission to the Government recites that from the time active production was commenced in the district in 1894 to January

1 of the current year there have been produced 1,616,259 tons of smelting ore of a gross value in gold, copper and silver of \$25,436,525, practically all derived from an area of 120 acres on the slope of Red Mountain. Whilst private enterprise has mapped out the rock formations, veins, dykes, faults, etc., within this comparatively small area, it cannot similarly cover the remainder of the mineralized region about Rossland, the task being beyond its capacity. It is claimed that there are many outcrops and exposures in prospect workings that would afford geologists much information for use in the preparation of the detailed report asked for, and that the economic results that would follow the making available to mining men the conclusions of expert geologists would be found to more than justify the expense involved in the much-needed examination and report.

A recent issue of the *B. C. Review* (London) contains this amusing editorial paragraph: "We stated in a recent issue that the B. C. Government is reported to be about to sell the extensive coal and petroleum lands in East Kootenay, which they have recently recovered from the Canadian Pacific Railway, to an American syndicate. Latest reports from the Province state that there is much local indignation over the matter, as these lands are known to be extremely valuable, some authorities appraising them at ten million sterling, while the American syndicate will obtain them for a nominal license fee of £4,000. Of course, every kind of epithet is hurled at the Government, who are accused of sacrificing the interests of the Province for private gain, but it is certainly better that these mineral lands should be developed by a financially strong company rather than be handed over piecemeal to penniless individuals who will hawk their grants all over the country. We trust that the Government will take some steps to ensure a substantial revenue to the Province from whoever obtains these valuable lands." There would be something a great deal harder than "epithets" hurled if the B. C. Government tried or even contemplated any such little game. But we can assure our contemporary that the B. C. Government has not as yet, at least so far as we are aware, removed its official headquarters from the Legislative Buildings, Victoria, to the lunatic asylum, New Westminster.

Two months ago we commented on a statement published in a Rossland newspaper asserting that the deduction of the President of the Rossland Board of Trade from his own annual report of 1903 and from a leaflet published by the Associated Boards of Trade was "that in 1903 Rossland camp produced about 46 per cent. of the entire mineral wealth mined in British Columbia." We then expressed the opinion that when the official figures should be published it would be found that the Trail Creek Mining Division, which includes Rossland camp, did not contribute more than 25 per cent. in value and much less in tonnage of the total mineral wealth mined last year in the Province. The official figures are now avail-