

own folly or unbusiness-like conduct—and allow others to pick up all the new things going. Then later he will buy these at twice their value. Meanwhile B. C. is managing to exist without British capital, and all things considered, she is not making a bad fist of it.

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Evidence of the revival of mining in the Province is accumulating rapidly, and it would almost seem that there were about to be a return to the "rushing" times of '96. But with this difference, that whilst in 1896 we had no mines but much talk, now there are some mines and less talk. In other words, the boom of '96 was largely hysterical. There was much foolish jubilation and afterwards vain tears. Our mining industry is no longer in the school-girl stage. It has matured and settled down sedately to business. Investors no longer will look at an undeveloped prospect, but they are beginning again to enquire for mines. In all the mining sections word comes of greater activity. Nelson a year ago dead so far as mining was concerned has now half a dozen mines in operation on Morning Mountain alone; there is decidedly more activity at Ymir, where six or seven properties have become steadily productive. Slocan is actually booming," and very shortly all the mines idle the past year or more, will be again in steady operation; the Lardeau is attracting unusual attention not only on account of the rich new discoveries at Poplar Creek and elsewhere, but also in consequence of the satisfactory results now attending the operation of the free milling quartz mines in the Fish River Camp; developments in the Big Bend are being more actively prosecuted this season, both in respect to hydraulic and quartz mining; in Rossland and Boundary production is largely on the increase; arrangements have been completed for the immediate resumption of operations at the big East Kootenay silver-lead mines, and the coal mining industry in the same field has of recent months made great forward strides; Kamloops mines have commenced to send out ore, and on the Coast two smelters are in operation, production being greater than at any previous time; the settlement, too, this month of the labour troubles at Cumberland has further improved the industrial situation. In short, all present indications point to the advent for mining in British Columbia of an era of unprecedented prosperity, a re-awakening of interest among investors in the mines of the Province, and a realization generally of those sanguine expectations which despite frequent disappointments, set-backs and long-drawn-out periods of industrial depression, many British Columbians have continued to steadfastly hold.

At a meeting recently in Sandon of the Associated Silver-lead Miners, an organization represented by twenty-nine mine company and three individual operators, a marketing committee, Messrs. G. Alexander, Byron N. White, A. C. Garde, W. E. Zwicky and D. C. Forbes were nominated to undertake the disposal of the Slocan's silver-lead product and control the local market. This plan for the marketing of the ores has been adopted in order to guard against any possible discrimination on the part of the smelter against individual mines, and the arrangement is that the members of the association will sell their output to the committee, who in turn will market it to the best advantage. Slocan mine operators have, meanwhile, been somewhat exercised by a report that a contract has been entered into between the St. Eugene mine at Moyie, and the Trail smelter for the marketing of the whole of the mine's product at the Canadian Smelting Works. The report appears, however, to be premature, but nevertheless some difficulty is likely to arise in connection with the home marketing of ores, which it will be remembered is one of the stipulations under which the Canadian Government bounty is offered. At the present time the two smelters in operation have certainly not the facilities to handle a product equal to that of 1900, the record year, or the rate of production which under existing favourable conditions it is expected to maintain. The St. Eugene mine is in a position to make as large a monthly output as can be accomplished by all the Slocan mines in combination. Hence the apprehension on the part of the Slocan producers. In the event of a difficulty arising on these grounds it is possible, however, the Government might be induced to relax the regulation in force and allow for a period the marketing of a proportion of the lead production in the United States, pending the relieving of the situation by the completion of the Marysville smelter now under construction. It is also possible that with the improvement in conditions it may be found profitable to resume smelting operations at Pilot Bay.

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In a recent issue the Rossland *Miner* published a very interesting account of the progress of deep level mining in that locality. Our contemporary rather optimistically remarks: "In Rossland the really big mining has yet to be done. The deep levels have yet to be opened. It is impossible to estimate the untouched wealth that lies below the 1,500-foot workings. We only know that all ore bodies in the north belt increase in width with depth. It is therefore not unreasonable to suppose that additional sinking will expose a proportionate amount of paying ore. This