

of the mineral wealth of mining districts is to support clean, honest and well-edited local newspapers. Supporting a local paper does not simply mean paying a subscription, but also by giving it the news. In less than a month items which originally emanated from the local paper will have appeared in scores of other papers, reaching the eyes of many thousands of readers elsewhere. Let such information be reliable, and good must eventually be derived by the locality to which reference is made."

The high price now obtainable for zinc ores has certainly assisted in stimulating the movement—of which the Payne Company at the instance of its energetic resident manager, Mr. A. G. Garde, was practically the pioneer—of turning the zinc-bearing ores of the Slocan district to commercial account; and the development of these resources is now proceeding in so satisfactory a manner that it can only be a matter of a short time ere zinc mining in the province will assume very important proportions. The other day one mine alone completed the relatively large shipment of a thousand tons of zinc ore to local reduction works, and other mines have recently installed machinery or adapted their mills for the concentration of their zinc as well as the lead products. As further indication of industrial progress in this connection is the fact that the Kootenay Ore Company's sampling works at Kaslo are being very considerably extended and specially equipped for the treatment of zinc ores, whilst the erection of the new zinc reduction works at Rosebery, on Slocan Lake, is now well under way.

While the mineral exhibits at provincial exhibitions and at Spokane this autumn were not nearly so large and varied as they should have been to adequately represent the "mineral province" of Canada, it is gratifying to note that they were considered sufficiently good to merit awards being made to them. The province appears to have made an excellent showing at the St. Louis Exposition, according to a telegram received by the *Boundary Creek Times* from Mr. H. B. Munroe, of Greenwood, who is connected with the mineral department of the Canadian section there. The telegram reads: "Won on minerals 2 grand prizes, 25 gold medals, 31 silver medals, and 14 bronze medals, out of total of 85 entries." Particulars of British Columbia's display of minerals and the conditions of the competition in which these results were obtained will be awaited with interest.

Evidently the superintendent of the Kootenay-Boundary division of the Canadian Pacific railway does not anticipate that the construction of a branch of the Great Northern railway to Phoenix will reduce the ore-carrying business of the former railway, as suggested by some of the up-country press correspondents. Even if, as has been stated it will do, the Great Northern does secure the freight business of the Granby Company's mines, this will not mean, as

reported to have been pointed out by Superintendent Lawrence, that it will have the haulage of all the ore produced in the Boundary district. There are other mines producing on an appreciably large scale, and it may reasonably be expected that still others will be developed as the treatment capacity of the district smelters shall be increased, for there are known to be large bodies of ore that have not yet been opened up. That the C. P. R. Company looks for an increase in its ore-hauling business is certain, for it has lately ordered the construction of fifty additional steel ore cars to use in the Boundary district.

The price of lead has lately been a source of much satisfaction to the owners of silver-lead mines in the Kootenay, and there seems to be a probability of the product of these mines returning even higher profits than under recent favourable conditions. Mr. G. O. Buchanan, inspector under the Lead Bounties Act, was reported early last month to have said: "The lead producers are now getting within ten shillings of the maximum intended to be reached under the provisions of the Act providing for the payment of bounties on lead. When, as now, lead is quoted in London at £12, the local producers receive \$2.50 per 100 lb. This was the figure that they asked the government to aid them in obtaining when they applied for the lead bounty. Lead has been down to £10: 5: 0 since the bounty began to be payable, 15 months since. It has ranged a little under £10 to £22 in the last 20 years, with an average during that period of £12: 10: 0. I look for the price to go still higher, as there is a demand for lead in the United States and that country has no surplus for export, beside which there has been a falling off in the production of Mexican lead." If this expectation be realised the silver-lead mine owners of this province should receive even better returns and much higher than for several years.

The apt reply given at a recent public meeting, held at Ladysmith, to a Socialist who said the American people gave the people of Ladysmith their living by buying coal from the place, may well be given as wide publicity as possible. It was this: "The Americans bought our coal because they could not get such a good article elsewhere; because here we have the best coal on the Pacific coast." That is also the reason why the Great Northern Railway Company wants Vancouver Island coal for its new line of big steamships that will trade between Puget Sound and the Orient; and, too, if it be true, as lately reported in local newspapers, that Japan is seeking to obtain a supply of Comox coal the reasons are evident—Vancouver Island possesses an abundance of coal of superior quality occurring so near tidewater that it is to the advantage of large consumers to obtain their supplies from here. Quantity, quality and low cost—these are the exceptional advantages Island collieries offer, and strict business considerations alone impel consumers to avail themselves of them.