

cuples, muffles, fuel, fluxes, etc., is taken into account, without considering the time employed, or the special knowledge required for the work, assayers in British Columbia are very poorly paid.

When, as is sometimes the case, a liberal discount is demanded from list prices, the assayer may well conclude that, compared with other professions, his offers but few opportunities and inducements.

It is for some reasons to be regretted that the space to be allotted to Canada for exhibition purposes at the Paris Exposition of 1900, is somewhat limited, and that in consequence it has been decided not to classify the exhibits of the Dominion under the heads of the respective Provinces from which they are contributed. But it is, perhaps, better that the space should be restricted rather than unnecessarily liberal, as was the case at the Chicago World's Fair. Canada will send of her best to Paris, and in the mining section, at least, the principal exhibit will be from British Columbia. We are glad to learn that the important task of collecting mineral specimens for the Exposition is to be entrusted to Mr. Robertson, the Provincial Mineralogist, and the work could not be in better hands. Dr. Dawson, will, we understand, have charge of the mineralogical and geological department of the Canadian exhibit at Paris, and it is necessary that all specimens should be sent to him before November of this year. Meanwhile, there can be no doubt but that the mineral display from British Columbia will attract much favourable attention at next year's great Fair, and it is worth noting that already French capital is being largely invested in our mines, and that a leading financial journal published in Paris is devoting a very considerable amount of space weekly to British Columbia mines and securities.

Referring to shipments of ore from Slocan Lake points to the Canadian Pacific Company's smelter at Trail, a correspondent writes: "The Trail smelter is not giving the satisfaction that was expected. In several instances the payments have been made below New York quotations, and frequently there is a shortage in the assay value. . . . Considering that the C.P.R. have the Nelson concern at their mercy and that their own smelter is giving anything but satisfaction, the outlook for a home industry seems to be throttled at the outset." There can be no doubt that the C.P.R. has and is throwing obstructions in the way of other concerns engaging in smelting or ore-reduction enterprises in Kootenay, and the manner in which the company recently treated an application from a Mr. McDowell, who desired a certain site at Nelson on which to build sampling-works, is evidence of this fact. It is, nevertheless, not quite fair to charge the Trail smelter with many inaccurate returns, or with not paying the full market price for the ore sent to the works, except on the very strongest evidence. Smelter men of experience know full well what it is to be constantly badgered with complaints of this nature and in some of the principal smelters of the United States it is a rule that no ore will be accepted for treatment unless the consignor's representative is present at the time the consignment is sampled. In this connection a story is told of one mine-owner who refused to accede to the smelter's terms in respect to sending a representative. A large shipment of ore was consigned to the smelter, but

refused on the grounds that the mine-owner or his representative must witness the sampling. The mine-owner was obstinate and insisted, but finding, at last, that he would either be obliged to send a representative to the smelter or pay the return freight on his ore, he despatched his office-boy. Of course, the boy knew absolutely nothing about ore or ore-sampling, but that was no concern of the smelter's officials, so long as their rule was recognized, hence the ore was duly purchased. Regarding the question of the market value of ore received at the Trail smelter, unless it is specifically stated that New York prices will be paid, i.e., the value of metals when delivered in New York, there may be perfectly valid reasons on the part of the C.P.R. management for fixing another standard—that, for instance, of the St. Louis market, where the price of lead and other metals is invariably lower than in New York.

As a result of the passage of the Alien Exclusion Act a number of Chinese and Japanese claim-holders and miners in Cariboo have, we are informed, recently made application to the Gold Commissioner of that district for naturalization rights. When this Bill was passed it may be safely assumed that such an effect was not contemplated; and whatever may be said for and against the employment of Mongolian cheap labour by industrialists in this country, few, we imagine, would be prepared to go to the extreme of welcoming low-caste Orientals as fellow-citizens, and as such entitled to all the privileges—including the franchise—enjoyed by native-born British subjects in British Columbia. Yet, under our present laws, it is quite within the bounds of possibility that ere long a Mongolian vote will have to be considered in all political contests. It is true that at the recent Provincial general election, naturalized Chinese who appeared at the polls were refused permission to register their votes by the officials, but it is questionable whether this action would have been sustained had the matter been taken on appeal to the courts. The question of allowing Mongolians to become naturalized British subjects is a very serious one, which, unless steps are taken to prevent it, will at no distant date assume much more formidable proportions.

In a letter to the *Toronto Monetary Times* of recent date, Mr. Robert R. Hedley, Superintendent of the Hall Mines Smelter at Nelson, speaks in very high terms of the quality of the coke produced at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's ovens at Fernie. To quote Mr. Hedley: "I have no hesitation in saying," he writes, "that I have never used as good a coke, though at one time I was asked to try what is always considered the highest grade coke in the world, that of Durham, for which the coal is specially prepared before cooking by a system of crushing and washing. Comparing it with coke we have used heretofore, namely, that from the ovens of the Coast on both sides of the International boundary, I find 120 pounds of the former goes as far as 150 pounds of the latter. I had the pleasure recently of visiting Fernie and looking over the plant of Mr. Blakemore, the manager. This was extremely interesting, and great credit is due to the management for the efficacy of their plant. The production of four tons of coke for six tons of coal is unusual, and says much for the prospects of this company. I have no doubt that when they can produce large quantities they will readily find a market