

here for 120 cars by the time the new plant shall be ready for operation.

Managers and other representatives of smelters have again succeeded in inducing the Provincial Legislature to reject a proposed act to make an 8-hour day compulsory at all smelters in British Columbia. The proposed act, which it was intended should come into operation on March 1, 1907, if passed, was to the following effect: No person shall be employed in or about any smelter, sorting, hauling, removing or smelting ores or matte in any stage of preparation, for a longer period than eight hours in any twenty-four hours. Any owner, agent, or manager, or anyone acting on their behalf, employing any workman or person in contravention of this act, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$100 nor less than \$20 for each workman or person so employed, and any workman or person so working for a longer period than specified in this act shall be liable to similar penalties. The socialist and labour members of the Legislature made a most persistent fight, but a majority of the members of the House declined to make compulsory an 8-hour day when this concession had already been granted at most if not all of the smelters of the province.

The *Vernon News* published on 1st inst. a *pot-pourri* of stuff purporting to be information concerning the British Empire Mines but which is characteristic of the notorious fake promoter to whom it gives credit for it in the following words: "The above information was secured from D. R. Young, the man to whom much credit is due for undertaking the task given up by so many, of bringing a paying mine to the very doors of Vernon." If the *Vernon News* earnestly desires to do the Okanagan Valley a service in the direction of preventing its chances of developing whatever mineral resources the district has from being retarded it will publish full particulars of the Similkameen coal scheme Mr. "Windy" Young worked (certain of the public) so hard for a few years since and in connection with which he obtained for his money-getting purposes a report or reports from Mr. Wm. Blakemore, coal expert of Nelson. A detailed account of results of the "prospecting" for coal, both in the Similkameen and at Trout Creek, Okanagan, and of the "Ashnola Smelter" which was never built, would quickly convince the Okanagan people that the chances of their obtaining any benefit from money put into supposed mining enterprises engineered by parasites of the "Windy" Young type are extremely slim. On the other hand they will do well to leave severely alone any mining scheme in such hands, for neither they nor their district may reasonably expect to see permanent good results from the operations of schemers with such a discreditable record as that of "Windy" Young and his Similkameen coal and Ashnola smelter frauds above-mentioned.

A despatch from Washington, D.C., is to the effect that negotiations are in progress between the U. S.

State Department and the British Foreign Office looking to joint action in the matter of marking the international boundary between Eastern Alaska and the Canadian Yukon, along the 141st meridian. The *Mining and Scientific Press*, San Francisco, thus refers to this question: "Mineral development has become so active in the extreme eastern part of Alaska, and in the western part of Yukon Territory, that an urgent demand for the marking of the international boundary has been made by mine owners and prospectors. Within the last few months it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of several prominent mining operators that immense bodies of copper ore exist in eastern Alaska, especially in the White River region. The White River rises in eastern Alaska, but soon crosses the international boundary and empties into the Yukon south of Dawson. The part of the boundary involved is described in treaties between the United States and Great Britain as the one hundredth and forty-first meridian of longitude, but prospectors cannot readily determine longitude, and there is confusion as to whether certain claims are in American or Canadian territory. As the mining regulations of the two countries are radically different, it is necessary to have a determination of the matter. What is wanted is the erection of visible monuments to define the boundary, and negotiations looking to the prosecution of this work by an international survey party have been opened between the State Department and the British Foreign Office."

On February 24 the *Mining and Scientific Press*, San Francisco, California, published in its special correspondence from London, England, the following: "The total output of the mines in British Columbia for 1905—reported at about £4,000,000—is some £400,000 in excess of the previous year. There was less gold produced, but a larger proportion of the baser metals." The position was not correctly stated by our contemporary's London correspondent. The approximate estimate of the mineral production as cabled by the Provincial Government to the Agent General in London showed a total of \$21,403,000 (£4,280,600). As the total production in 1904 was \$18,977,359 (£3,795,472) it follows that the increase in 1905 over 1904, as shown by the published estimate, was \$2,425,641 (£485,128) which is a sufficiently larger sum to warrant this correction. Further, the total gold production in 1905 was not less than in 1904, as stated above, but more, the official figures as since revised showing an increase of nearly \$200,000, although this amount is less by about \$55,000 than the estimated increase. While we have official assurance that the revised figures of all minerals produced in the Province last year exhibit a higher total value and consequently a still larger increase we are not yet at liberty to state what they are. They will be made public, however, as soon as the printing—now in hand—of the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines for 1905 shall be completed, when it will be seen that the total value of last year's mineral production was between \$2,000,000 and \$2,500,000 higher than that of