Recapitulation.—After enumerating the six methods of treatment that seem to the writer to be best suited to these Australian ores, he has eliminated the first two, namely:—(1) Direct smelting, and (2) mechanical concentration and lixiviation of the tailings. The slow Rio Tinto method of leaching, which he has called No. 6, demands most careful consideration in the few cases where the magnitude of the ore bodies and of the financial resources will permit of its application.

This leaves only the three methods of direct and rapid lixiviation of the ore without any previous mechanical concentration. An intimate knowledge of local conditions and costs, wide technical experience with modern lixiviation methods, and long and careful experiments on an extensive scale, on the ore to be treated, can alone decide the method to be chosen.

The writer is pretty well convinced, however, that if the choice should fall upon any one of these three methods, it will be found advantageous to crush the ore dry and roast it, before lixiviation.

Mr. James Douglas (New York, U.S.A.) wrote that he concurred with Dr. Peters' preference for smelting over leaching, whenever conditions made the former possible. The greater simplicity of plant and process was overwhelmingly in favour of smelting, and the large size of the cupolas now used, 22 feet by 42 inches or 48 inches, enabled a small plant to do a large amount of work. The Rio Tinto method could be employed, even on suitable pyritic ore, only in a hot climate; and many ores (even though their chemical composition would point to this process as applicable) would not heat up and decompose.

THE B. C. MARKET IN LONDON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE most important development since my last letter has been the reconstruction of the London & British Columbia Goldfields Co. To those who have followed recent developments in connection with this group the announcement did not come altogether as a surprise, but to the general public it was undoubtedly a sad disillusionment. People had expected such grand things from the London & British Columbia Goldfields and its various offsprings, that their entire failure to fulfill these anticipations even in part has caused much disappointment. The Chairman spoke so hopefully at the meeting called to pass the reconstruction proposals that there was no support forthcoming for the appointment of a Committee of Investigation suggested by one of the shareholders, but it is worth noting that the shares of the company are only quoted at a rubbish price in the Stock Exchange, where they are usually supposed to have an at all events appropriate idea of intrinsic merits. The whole group has fallen from the front rank of British Columbian shares, but it is to be hoped that it will yet be able to partially at least justify that renewal of confidence in the board which the acceptance of the reconstruction proposals indicates. One of the favourable features has been the generous support accorded to the shares of the Tyee Copper Co., which have been lifted to well over £2, whilst Snowshoes continue to attract favourable attention. Le Roi No. 2 have also been a rather better market of late, although like the Le Roi, closing below their recent best figures. New Goldfields have been fairly firm, but Velvets hang a good deal, and those behind this group seem to have a difficulty in maintaining the price at much over 3-8. Hall Mining & Smelting, after having been a heavy market, have hardened a little, but movements have been few and unimportant, and the volume of business doing in London in British Columbian shares has been of the smallest possible dimensions. Generally the outlook is regarded as more hopeful, but the public have explained so many disappointments in connection with British Columbian mining companies in the past six or seven years, that it is not perhaps surprising that they continue to adopt a cautious attitude towards the market generally, apparently overlooking the fact that at their present levels shares of the leading companies are in many cases really well worth buying and putting away for what we call here "the long shot." Their continued abstention is of course in large part due to the apathetic condition of the mining market in London generally, for the recent excitement in the Canadian Railway and Industrial Department should have in ordinary times been reflected by a revival of interest in Canadian mines. But then these are not ordinary times; we are passing through a period of depression in the mining section, and it is vain to expect the Canadian Department to emancipate itself from conditions, which although in no way due to developments in the Dominion, are yet all embracing in their adverse influence. By and by no doubt there will be an improvement in these conditions, and mining shares will once more come to the front, but until the South African Department emerges from the dark clouds which at present overhang it, there is not likely to be any real recovery in the mining market as a whole. Let us hope that in the meantime British Columbian mining developments will continue to proceed on such a satisfactory basis, that when the recovery does come it will be justified not only by market conditions, but also by intrinsic merits. Recent political developments have been made a good deal of in the London press, and it is hoped that the reported change in the Government will not in any way delay the concessions to the mining industry which it was understood had been decided upon.

RECENT B. C. PATENTS.

MR. ROWLAND BRITTAIN, patent attorney of Vancouver, sends us the following report for the month of May: Two U. S. patents have been issued during the past month to G. A. Roedde, of Vancouver, on improvements in loose leaf binders. This inventor is keenly alive to the many advantages of this system of binder as applied to ledgers, account books and registers generally, and as a practical book binder has for several years past set himself to remedy the defects which up to the present stand as a bar to any general adoption of the system.

Mr. Roedde has aimed to combine with the convenient removal of leaves by an authorized person, the free and flat