

sponsible for 83. Of the others, the Payne alone is worthy of mention, having the same amount to its credit, about 80 tons.

Silver still continues on the downward march, notwithstanding that every other metal without exception, including copper, tin, lead, zinc and iron, and many of those in more restricted use, such as platinum, mercury, antimony, etc., maintain an upward tendency. Just what effect the war in South Africa will have it is impossible to predict, but the outlook taken all round is none too encouraging, even in the eyes of the most optimistic individual.

NELSON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

A well-known figure has returned to Nelson, in the person of Mr. "Rob" Tolmie, who is even better known at the Coast. It will be remembered that Mr. Tolmie, who was Mining Recorder here, was ousted from his position by the present Government for no reason whatever, except that he apparently did not agree with their ideas of governing a mining country. Seeing that Mr. Tolmie is a man of great common sense this is scarcely surprising. Mr. Tolmie then went to Seattle, and we feared that he was lost to us forever. He has now returned as the secretary of the Mine Owners' Association, and in that capacity will probably watch the course of legislation in Victoria. If the Government will condescend to take it, they will find his advice on any matters connected with this part of the world exceedingly practical and to the point, but so far they have not shown themselves at all prone to consult anyone who may be in a position to enlighten their own most unfortunate ignorance of the subject.

The strike situation remains the same. The Slocan mines are all closed down, though work continues in every other part of Kootenay, the men so far accepting the reduced pay offered for the reduced time. It is said that the unions over the border have refused any support to the unions of Kootenay, because the wages demanded here are higher than those willingly accepted elsewhere. If the local unions therefore were to close down the entire country there would be no working bees to supply the honey for the great army of drones which thrives on unionism. So certain places remain unmolested. There is, however, a distinct feeling of uneasiness and several small strikes have occurred. There was some little trouble at the Iron Mask in Rossland, with wet workings for an excuse. At the Granite mine near here, men working on contract went out because the management refused any further supply of powder, fuse and light. Both sides are unsettled, and if the unwise legislation has done nothing else, it has created a feeling of dissatisfaction between masters and men, where all was harmony before.

LABOUR TROUBLES AT NELSON, ions therefore were to close down the entire country there would be no working bees to supply the honey for the great army of drones which thrives on unionism. So certain places remain unmolested. There is, however, a distinct feeling of uneasiness and several small strikes have occurred. There was some little trouble at the Iron Mask in Rossland, with wet workings for an excuse. At the Granite mine near here, men working on contract went out because the management refused any further supply of powder, fuse and light. Both sides are unsettled, and if the unwise legislation has done nothing else, it has created a feeling of dissatisfaction between masters and men, where all was harmony before.

Since the foregoing was written an important meeting of the Miners' Union was held in Nelson on Saturday, 21st October. It was there decided to raise the siege so far as Nelson was concerned, but to continue it with redoubled vigour in the Slocan. Rossland somehow has escaped so far. This means that the mines round Nelson and at Ymir and other parts of the Salmon River country will be able to get all the men they want at three dollars a day. Various

interpretations are placed on this action of the union. By some it is supposed to be a sign of weakness and indicates approaching dissolution, while others, probably nearer the mark, suggest that the union means to concentrate all its energies on the unfortunate Slocan, and when that is subdued, Nelson

MEETING OF THE MINERS. and Trail Creek will become easy victims. The counter moves on the part of the owners is obvious, but it is doubtful if it will be made. Every

mine in the districts now left free from attack should be at once closed, thus shutting off the sources of supply from the union and showing the willingness of mine owners here and at Rossland to stand shoulder to shoulder with their brethren in the Slocan. As long as the camps remain divided the union is sure to subdue them in the end, and the only successful opposition to their attack is united action.

There has been some excitement, accompanied by an exhibition of good feeling, amongst all classes over the departure of Captain Hodgins and three men for South Africa. A fund of nearly \$700 was raised, out of which a sword was presented to Captain Hodgins, the rest being divided among the other three to provide them with pocket money. The response to the invitation for volunteers and the hearty acceptance of the selection show that any little bickerings, whether political, social or racial, are merely on the surface.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions which may be expressed in this column. No notice will be taken of communications unless accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

THE B.C. MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR:—In your October issue I notice in your criticisms on the British Columbia Mining and Exploration Company, Limited, you state, "With regard to the concern itself there does not at present appear to be much to promise that the invitation to the public to subscribe for shares will meet with any extraordinarily enthusiastic response."

It is immaterial, I may say, whether the public enthusiastically subscribe to the shares for sale (which are solely for development purposes, with the exception of the ordinary office and legal expenses, which will be exceptionally light, as the officers of the company are giving their time free of cost for the first year) or not, as the late owners have sufficient confidence in the properties to purchase treasury stock themselves, independent of what the public determine to buy.

You state in italics of your own "thereby availing themselves of the development work that is being done on a number of the adjoining mines," evidently criticising the statement made in the prospectus. Now, any sensible person must know that it is an advantage in a new mining country like British Columbia to become interested in a number of the mining districts. I can name a number of properties which have lately become very valuable simply on account of adjoining properties proving to be rich mines and securing railway connection, thereby in-