

heartened by the evidence of incompetence and extravagance in one of the principal Rossland mines; English capital is disturbed by the untoward course of the South African war; to overcome these effects alone upon the mining industry of British Columbia would require wisdom and prudence and well directed effort. But when confidence has been shaken in the administration of public affairs in the province itself by the extraordinary events which have characterized our recent political history it is evident that the task before our men of light and leading is more arduous than ever, and unless the right men carry out the right policy a period of actual retrogression is inevitable. The country needs a policy of mining development to which everything else must be subordinated.

The report of the Knob Hill and Ironsides Companies, in Phoenix Camp, has just been issued, and if the statements therein contained are to be relied upon, there can be no doubt that these mines will in the near future, rival most of the largest copper producing properties of the world. Our Boundary Creek correspondent, however, while not questioning for a moment the reliability of the estimates given, makes some comments which are very much to the point, for if it should happen, that the general average value of the ores in these mines—and it must be remembered that the deposits are so enormous that a really exact sampling is a very difficult matter—should be lower than the management suppose and the margin for profitable working is consequently reduced to any considerable extent, the disappointment will be very keen and the whole of the Boundary Creek country will feel the effect. Our correspondent thus comments:

Much publicity has been given to a statement reported by the Grand Forks correspondent to a number of newspapers, to have been made by Mr. Jay P. Graves, as follows: "The last report of our superintendent showed \$11,500,000 worth of ore in sight in the Knob Hill above the tunnel level. The total average value placed upon it was \$8.35 per ton, which, if the estimate be correct, should pay us \$3.25 per ton net profit. It is estimated there is as much ore in sight in the Old Ironsides as in the Knob Hill, and the Victoria, the adjoining mine, owned by the smelter company, is not very much inferior to either. The No. 3 shaft on the Old Ironsides lacks but a few feet of 400 feet in depth, a level that will be reached this week. Extensive development work on the Old Ironsides and the Victoria is being done in the 200 and 300-foot levels. The ground has been so developed that the ore can be easily extracted, and in quantities to keep our smelter continuously in full blast. It is estimated that we have in Phoenix alone sufficient ore in sight to supply the smelter for five years, even though we never found any more mineral." So far as the personal views of Mr. Graves, given out for publication, are concerned, these are usually freely discounted by those who regard him as a company promoter rather than a mining man qualified to express opinions of value respecting mines. But if the figures quoted are the statements of Mr. W. Yolens Williams, the superintendent of the several mining enterprises of the Miner-Graves Syndicate, they are to be taken far more seriously, since Mr. Williams is a mine manager with a good reputation to maintain or lose. It seems desirable though to offer this comment upon the statement respecting the ore in sight

above the Knob Hill tunnel level, viz. that though drifts and cross-cuts run around the big body—frequently described as "an acre"—of ore may have, as asserted, shown ore of the average value given to occur where cut by these workings it by no means follows that the values are maintained all through this big block of ground. Conservative mining men will admit that the chances are as much against this assumption as in favour of it, and until this ground has been proved by further opening up there is risk in taking it for granted that the estimate given is to be depended upon. A shaft has been sunk below the level of the tunnel, so if this is in ore too Mr. Williams might just as well have included in his calculations all the ground down to the lowest depth reached and so arrived at a total far in excess of that quoted above.

There is no doubt that much development work is being done on these Miner-Graves properties, the Old Ironsides, Knob Hill and Victoria, and that enormous bodies of ore are being disclosed. With quantity so unmistakably assured it is now only a question of values and the margin they will leave above cost of treatment of the ores and delivery to buyers of the saleable products obtained. Mr. Graves' statement that \$8.35 ore will give \$3.25 net profit presumes a very economical cost of mining, hauling and treating the ore and marketing the product. Many readers of the MINING RECORD will probably think even though a smelter rate of \$3.50 to \$4.00 be found practicable \$1.10 to \$1.60 per ton will be found a difficult maximum cost to maintain for mining, hauling and marketing. It will be interesting a year hence to compare these estimated figures with the actual cost should the latter be then made public.

A correspondent sends us a copy of the "Consolidation and By-Laws of the Kettle River and South Okanagan Pioneers," a society recently organized in Greenwood to which no one is qualified for membership unless able to prove residence in the district in 1894 or previous years. The officers of this very distinguished body include an honorary president (hyas klooshe tyee), a president (tyee), four or more vice-presidents (sitkum tyees), a treasurer (chicamin tyee), a secretary (tzun tyee), an honorary physician (hyas doktin) and an executive committee (mamook tyees). Rightly no stranger, pilgrim or cheecharco will be admitted to any of the society's meetings, and it is strictly enjoined that "members shall not divulge any of the secrets or mysteries of the organization," and thus will the well-worn yarns of other and harder days be preserved sacred as they are related many repeated times in that select circle while the incense from well-smoked pipes ascends ceilingwards. The "old timer" in Boundary Creek is now in a very small minority, but for all that the district owes him a very large debt of gratitude. The man who "stayed with" the camp before even the government waggon road was built, when a weekly mail service was esteemed a luxury, and who notwithstanding the discomforts and extravagance of living in such a country never lost faith in it and never missed an opportunity of shouting its praises deserves well of the community. He it was who by long and persistent effort at length induced the capitalist to view the land. The capitalist came and he also believed. Then was a railroad built which brought in many people of all trades and callings, and in due course Boundary will be of all the