

we are on the subject we may be permitted to advert to a case which came to our notice the other day, when the provision of a Government bounty instead of inducing the establishment of permanent industry was not regarded as an inducement. For some time past, but more particularly in recent months, a great deal of investigation and enquiry has been instituted by capitalists desiring to inform themselves regarding the value and extent of the iron deposits on Texada Island and at Barclay Sound, on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, with a view to their utilisation in supplying the pig-iron requirements of the Puget Sound and other western markets, amounting at present to approximately 20,000 tons annually. The inauguration of this industry although a relatively unimportant one at this time is nevertheless much to be desired; but it is questioned, we have heard, whether it would be wise to establish works for the production of pig-iron in British Columbia, when it would probably be more profitable in three years' time to ship the raw material to the United States and manufacture there. As matters are it would pay better to make pig-iron on the spot, as costs of handling and freight would be less in this case, and the bounty on pig-iron off-sets the American duty on the manufactured product. But, the investor asks himself, what assurance or likelihood is there of a renewal of the subsidy when the period of the present arrangement expires. And if it is not renewed, with the American duty to meet, it would not pay to manufacture for that market, which is, and is likely to remain for some time to come, the only available market for our British Columbian iron.

We publish elsewhere in this issue a letter from Mr. R. C. Campbell-Johnston in reply to comments we last month made on a recent contribution of his to the *London Mining Journal*. The particular points we raised were (1) whether Mr. Campbell-Johnston's unqualified statement that the cheapest smelting extant is in British Columbia is open to question, and (2) whether he was justified in asserting that the present practice of British Columbia coal companies is to coke the coal in the ovens for only twenty-four hours. Mr. Campbell-Johnston replies to the effect that his advices are that Tennessee costs, to which we referred last month, are 35 cents per ton for roasting ore and \$1.15 for smelting, and that the cost of converting to blister copper has to be added, while the best British Columbia costs for the same result, viz., blister copper, are \$1.35 per ton of ore treated. Now, our information is that the Tennessee Copper Company now smelts its ore without first roasting it. Further, within the last fortnight there was published in the *Nelson Daily News* a report of the hearing of the Granby Company's appeal against the assessment made under the Act authorising the levy of the two per cent. mineral tax, from which report we take the following: "The assessment was based upon the affidavits made quarterly of the amount and value of ore shipped from the Granby mines, freight and treatment, and smelter profit. The gross value of the ore

was put at \$3.75 per ton, less smelter treatment \$1.76, freight 33 cents, and smelter profit 40 cents, a total deduction of \$2.49." Assuming that the affidavit of those who know the actual cost of the smelting (stated to be \$1.76), which probably includes the cost of converting to blister copper, is to be depended on, we see no good reason for accepting Mr. Campbell-Johnston's unsupported statement that blister copper can be produced in British Columbia for \$1.35 per ton of ore treated, nor do we suppose the Granby Company's costs are much higher than those at other smelters operating in the Boundary, where, as is generally admitted, smelting costs are, by reason of the exceptionally favourable conditions, lower than at other smelting points in the province. Then, as to the time taken to burn coke—if Mr. Campbell-Johnston is sincere in his expressed willingness to "beg forgiveness" if he has done the coal companies an injustice, he can best demonstrate his sincerity by ascertaining whether the assertion we challenged was correct, and, if not, by giving his acknowledgment of his error as wide publicity, through the *London Mining Journal*, as he gave to his unjust reflection on the coal companies. Mr. Campbell-Johnston is characteristically inaccurate in his conclusion that we are eager to advertise Tennessee as a cheaper source of copper than British Columbia. What we are eager to do is to state simple facts, and if it can be shown, upon incontrovertible evidence, that the cheapest smelting extant actually is in British Columbia we shall be only too pleased to avail ourselves of every opportunity to make known that fact, both in the columns of the *MINING RECORD* and through other influential channels open to us. On the contrary, we strongly deprecate exaggeration, whether in the direction of making claims for results not achieved, or in undeserved reflections on the work or products of companies operating in the province.

AN UNRELIABLE REVIEW.

THE *Mining Reporter* of Denver, Colorado has lately been favourably noticed in several of the newspapers of the Kootenay as a generally reliable mining journal. Our own observation has led us to conclude that its claim to reliability, so far as the information it publishes relative to British Columbia is concerned, of which we are qualified to judge, is, as a rule, well-founded. But for once, though, it has leant on a broken reed, and as a consequence published an article on "Mining in British Columbia," written by Arthur Lakes, that is not only most inaccurate, but does not even do the Province the barest justice in the direction of giving any conception of the comparative importance—for a country so young in lode-mining—of its mines, nor in conveying any idea of the amount and value of its mineral production. In fact, in the latter connection it does the very opposite, and that to an extreme degree. We feel that we have reasonable grounds for complaint that a widely circulated journal of acknowledged good repute should accept from a contributor an article pur-