

edness in the Outer Wharf, which is second to nothing of the kind on the Pacific Coast. At it the largest vessels can comfortably and safely lie, the entire institution being a standing advertisement for Victoria as an ocean port. Numerous approaches have been made to the Dominion authorities urging the necessity of harbor improvements at the public expense. These were comparatively unheeded; but upon the principle that God helps those who help themselves, Mr. Rithet went to work and the result was that the Dominion Government made an appropriation for the work which he had undertaken, and probably if others would go and do likewise they would not find that they had gone astray.

It is announced on the authority of General Superintendent H. Abbott, and Mr. Marpole makes a similar statement, that the C. P. R. fully realize the necessity of providing better facilities for reaching the Kootenay country and assisting to develop its wonderful resources. Neither of them, however, were prepared to say what was likely to be done until after having consulted with President Van Horne. It is, moreover, stated that the well known American capitalists the Rockfellers, of Standard Oil notoriety or, as some would say, fame have largely interested themselves in the Great Northern group of mines in the Lardeau County having, it is said, secured the Great Northern, the largest body of galena ore yet discovered in that section. We like to see men of means interested in our concerns, but we cannot forget that in not a few cases investments of a certain class of capital have been a curse instead of a blessing, inasmuch as it has frequently been the means of locking up valuable resources until such times as it may have suited the interests of rings or combines to allow them to be developed and realized upon without let or hindrance. We trust, however, there will be no such outcome in this case.

MANY of our readers have not unfrequently seen a little dog which has attempted to thrash a big one, or who having come into contact with one individual has been forced into a corner, where all that there is for him to do is to show his teeth and snarl. Outside of his references to departmental matters, almost the whole of President Harrison's latest message is a discontented and dissatisfied snarl. He exhibits himself as a thoroughly well whipped hound. He had much that was really satisfactory and encouraging upon which to congratulate the people whose ruler he is, but the little that he did in that way was done so ungraciously and withal so meanly, that many Americans would be surprised to learn how small a man had been at the head of their affairs; but would be glad to congratulate themselves upon the fact that his tenure of office had been brought to an end. How keen Mr. Harrison's disappointment is at having been so ruthlessly rejected one may well imagine; but he and those by whom he is advised and instructed failed to discover the way the wind was blowing and to govern themselves accordingly. They did not know enough to come in

when it rained, and with Governor McKinley and all his works got left out in the storm.

THE *Trade Review* of Montreal has an article on Mining in which it observes that, while the development in Canada has been slow, it has reached a point to which few who have not followed it can realize it has attained, and there is every indication that the movement of capital towards this industry will in the near future be more rapid and satisfactory still. It says "There is not in the world a rival to Canada in the extent of her coal fields and their thickness of the strata; while we are no longer restricted to the bituminous beds of the Maritime Provinces but have anthracite deposits upon the Pacific coast and reported finds elsewhere, as well as lignite in the Northwest. Gold and silver, nickel, antimony, arsenic, are all found in well known districts; while lead ore is to be had of excellent quality in the rich lodes of British Columbia and elsewhere. In gold and silver we may not, perhaps, have the natural wealth of the United States, although, from present appearances, districts in British Columbia promise to excel the most noted centres of Montana, Colorado and Idaho in silver at least."

THE Newfoundland sealers, according to published reports, have had an unusually successful year. It is besides stated in the reports from which this is taken that "recent legislation circumscribes the dates of sailing and bearing up from the fishery; sealing each year being practically confined within a period of six weeks. The inference from the two statements is obvious. It is that this legislative circumscription has been beneficial. Even British Columbia sealers—at least many of them would not be prepared to deny that a certain amount of circumscription on the North Pacific would also be beneficial, but they have naturally and very properly objected to the United States' assumption that they owned the seal fisheries and it was within their right to license certain parties to take seals almost whenever they pleased; but that other sealers were poachers upon their preserves. It is here and on this account that the friction has arisen between the two countries, and but for the moderation and conciliatory attitude of Canada and Great Britain as contrasted with the peremptory arrogance of the United States, the question would never have been submitted to arbitration. That arbitration it has time and again been sought to prejudice in the interests of our neighbors who will only have themselves to thank, should their endeavors prove to be a boomerang that shall drive them out of court a very much worsted party.

GOVERNOR LYMAN KNAPP of Alaska is reported to have stated, in an interview at Port Townsend that he believed that, in the forthcoming arbitration, the United States would emerge very much worsted. Nevertheless, he, in the same breath, said that the ultimate fate of the seal will be extermination and that the United States should do the same as Russia. Moreover, he is of the opinion that the seizure of the Coquiltam by the Corwin will result in an

international dispute. He glibly advocates the seizure of all vessels found "illegally plying the sealing vocation in or about 'our sealing grounds.'" In the first place Mr. Knapp should remember that it is yet an unsettled question where are the United States sealing grounds if, indeed, any such grounds are in existence, and on this account what may be termed "illegal sealing" is not as yet defined. Indeed, until this is settled by the Behring Sea Commission by whose findings the American authorities have bound themselves, the Washington Government cannot say, in the expressive words of Mr. Knapp, "seals are my property." Russia herself is not certain as to her own position, for the last has not yet been heard—unless the Americans are among the most abject cravens, and the same remark be shown to be applicable to the British Government—of the high-handed action of Captain de Levron and the cruiser *Zabiaka*. If the ultimate fate of the seal is extermination, the United States authorities have to assume a good share of the responsibility, the individuals to whom they have given special charters and the companies they have endowed with peculiar privileges have not only killed off the seal, but have ruined, and demoralized, and are killing off the native Aleuts, whose interest in the seals was not one of merchandize, to be realized upon as long as they lasted, but that of their very lives under the peculiar conditions of their existence.

If the United States are to come out of the arbitration "very much worsted," it will not be for them to say, "thus far and no farther," to the seal hunter. They will, we believe, be adjudged to have assumed and exercised an authority to which they are not entitled and to the proofs of whose legitimacy they hesitated to come like the common burglar and bold highwayman whose might constitutes his right, and who is never prepared to come to the Courts of Justice until he is dragged there. Common decency—the matter being *sub judice* should have prevented the Governor of Alaska from giving utterance to opinions like those with which he is credited, particularly when he is forced to admit that "in the coming arbitration negotiations the United States will emerge very much worsted." As to the United States claim to jurisdiction twelve miles from shore which Governor Knapp seems to have endorsed, as a Vermonter—a next door neighbor of the New Englanders, who with the assistance of the Washington authorities dispute Canada's three-mile claims on the Atlantic coast—what has he to say in regard to rules that do not work both ways? Americans, it would appear, base their latest pretensions in the Coquiltam case on the fact that the three miles used to be the greatest range of British cannon, and was therefore set down as the limit, but that now American guns can cover twelve miles. Are not John Bull's arms just as effective as those of Uncle Sam? Have the Americans any guns on the Pacific or elsewhere of longer range than those of H.M.S. *Warpite* or of the flagship that is to take her place, or, indeed, of the *Melpomene* which for the time being carries the Admiral's pennant? Here again we have another instance of Yankee dodging and quibbling.