

disposal of the public. We note that the Mining Engineer to the Geological Survey suggests that a more prompt response on the part of all applied to for the requisite information would help towards an earlier publication of the report. In a similar connection it may be mentioned that the Provincial Bureau of Mines also has much difficulty in getting prompt replies to its circulars asking for particulars relative to the mining industry, and, strange to say, among the worst delinquents in this respect are some who are most severe in their criticism of the department for a delay to which they themselves contribute by their neglect to promptly make returns. It seems as if some of those whom the law requires to supply certain information relative to their mining operations take advantage of the known reluctance of the Government to prosecute for such neglect, which is to be deplored.

During a recent public discussion on the Provincial Bureau of Mines and the official reports it issues, several speakers expressed themselves as strongly of the opinion that all references to values of ores and commercial prospects of mineral claims should be omitted from such official reports. Seemingly there is at least one instance on record where their views in this direction had already been officially anticipated, but whether in the best interests of this Province, which happens to be the one directly concerned, or not, may be left to individual judgment for decision. On pp. 72s and 73s of the Dominion Section of Mines Report for 1902 some information is given relative to "a new discovery of coal in the West Kootenay District." The locality is not in what in this Province is known as West Kootenay, but is in the north-east part of the Boundary District. It is not this inaccuracy in location, though, to which we desire to call attention, but to the misleading character of the information given. Mr. R. W. Brock's report on this alleged coal-field was not quoted in full. We do not take exception to that, though, so much as the omission to take careful note of Col. Linsley's report on this coal discovery as published in the Report for 1901 of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia, pp. 1071-2. In the Section of Mines Report Mr. Linsley is quoted as having reported the discovery of four seams of coal, of which "the upper (seven inches wide) was the largest," but he was *not* quoted as having given the thickness of the three other seams as 1½ inches, 1 inch and ½ inch, respectively. That gentleman regarded the coal-field (!) from a commercial standpoint, and his report to his principals did not encourage them to proceed to develop the property. Last spring, however, months before the date of the Report of the Section of Mines, the property was prospected, with results that led to its abandonment, to all intents and purposes no work having been since done on it. In this case a proper regard to the commercial prospects would have prevented the Geological Survey from officially calling attention to "a new discovery of coal" months after it had been shown to be of no practical value.

On March 6th the Rossland *Miner* published the following:—

"The *Miner* is reliably informed that an attempt was made last year to wantonly abuse the public-spiritedness of the Provincial Mining Association. It appears that thousands of copies of the British Columbia MINING RECORD have been sold to the Association for which the Association had no particular use. The parties responsible for this piece of business are open to censure if the facts are as stated. The Association has had a hard time steering itself clear of the shoals of politics, but to attempt to saddle it with any feature of 'yellow-legism,' and jobbery is nothing short of intolerable."

This is not the first time the *Miner*, under its present direction, has either plainly or, as above, by innuendo, done the MINING RECORD injustice. Heretofore we have not replied to its aspersions, secure in the knowledge that this journal has a reputation for honesty and straightforwardness that cannot be injured by attacks from such a quarter. But since the managing editor of the RECORD is also treasurer of the Provincial Mining Association, it may be in the interests of the Association to show that there is no justification at all for the above-quoted attempt to imply that either he or the RECORD has wantonly abused the public-spiritedness of the Association. The facts are that last year's printing committee, of which no one connected with the RECORD was a member, invited tenders for printing 15,000 copies of the report of the proceedings of the 1903 Convention. For a legitimate reason approved by the committee the tender of Mr. T. R. Cusack, printer, of Victoria, was made through and in the name of Mr. H. Mortimer Lamb. It was the lowest tender received and Mr. Lamb was notified on March 6 that this tender, which was for printing and did not provide for any illustrations, had been accepted. The printing committee had the right to seek advertising and it availed itself of this right to advantage, obtaining advertisements to the total value of two hundred dollars, less thirty dollars commission paid to the canvasser. Mr. Lamb turned over the printing order to Mr. Cusack at the amount of the tender. The RECORD obtained some additional advertising in accordance with an agreement with the committee, but it supplied two full-page cuts and eighteen smaller ones and had a special ornamental cover prepared all at its own expense. It should be particularly noted that this number was published in April, or about a month after the printing committee, to whom the Executive had delegated full power to deal with the matter, had, after careful consideration, accepted the lowest tender. The details of receipts and expenditure in connection with that report of the Convention proceedings were printed in the Victoria newspapers a week before the *Miner* published its innuendo against the RECORD. The statement of accounts showed that the charge for printing was Mr. Cusack's and his name appeared in the statement of liabilities as a creditor for \$358.02 for balance due on Convention proceedings. It was therefore plain to any fair-minded critic that the Association recognized its liability to Mr. Cusack and not to the MINING RECORD.