

sired interest in our affairs at Ottawa. In the short time that he has represented Yale-Cariboo he has shown that the needs of his constituency are his first care, and that he is not likely to take "No" for an answer from the Government where he is urging a just demand.

That his representations in regard to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway have had effect we judge from the fact that the almost immediate construction of this much needed line may be regarded as certain.

It cannot be built too soon, for on it to a large extent depends the development and expansion of our mining industry. When that road is completed it will determine where the great smelting point of the Kootenay is to be located.

In the meantime the Trail and Nelson smelters are being enlarged and improved. The Pilot Bay smelter is also likely to be in full operation shortly and smelting plants at other points are being talked of.

It is more than likely that Vancouver will have a large smelter in a few months. New Westminster has been agitating for one for some time past, and Victoria, in order to keep pace with the wants of the Island, will before another season be obliged to follow in the footsteps of the other coast cities.

The season of 1896 has been one largely of development; that of 1897 will be one of production. Development will go on apace with the advent of railways, and where the lack of transportation facilities is hindering the shipment of ore there will be next season great activity in that line.

Placer as well as quartz mining will be in full swing next year and the amount of gold and silver that will be extracted from our great deposits of the precious metals will run into the tens of millions.

So everything points to British Columbia being within the next year or so the "great treasure house of the Dominion."

We look forward to a most interesting report from Mr. Carlyle, the Provincial Mineralogist, on the Slovan district. His report on Trail Creek has given universal satisfaction.

Some of the local mining papers soon after the appointment of Mr. Carlyle, took occasion to make sneering remarks in regard to the usefulness of the office, complaining at the same time that it was located in Victoria.

In answer to those unjust criticisms the Mining Record in its May issue took occasion to say the following:

"We do not see the force of the argument put forward. Mr. Carlyle is in charge of the Mining Bureau established by the Government, and in that capacity we do not well see how his headquarters could be anywhere but in Victoria. This, however, does not prevent Mr. Carlyle's services from being extended to all parts of the Province, which, indeed, as we understand it, they are to be. Mr. Carlyle's presence in the Province, and the services he can render to mining is, we consider, of great importance to that industry and there is no use in attempting to belittle them. Mr. Carlyle will soon be going up country, and why not wait and see what his work throughout the Province will embrace and to what extent his usefulness will result before criticising? The great mining states of Colorado and California have the work of their bureaus centering at Denver and San Francisco, and in such central places, from which all parts are reached, has proven best to concentrate this work. Wait until the Provincial Mineralogist has had an opportunity of becoming better acquainted throughout the Province, and in a few weeks, we believe, he leaves for the Kootenay, where he will spend three or four months."

We now publish the following clipped from the *Kootenai* of September 12th, to show the change of sentiment amongst our contemporaries regarding Mr. Carlyle:

"Newspapers and individuals have the warmest praise for the work of Provincial Mineralogist Carlyle, who has just published his report on the Trail Creek district. The report shows that Mr. Carlyle does not belong to the yellow-legged variety of experts, and that he understands his business. There is no use denying that there has been some prejudice against Mr. Carlyle here in Kootenay, largely, we think, because of an impression which prevailed, that he was simply a part of the expensive government machine, and that his title and office meant nothing but a place on the salary roll. But now that Kootenay has seen something of the man and his work and realizes the important bearing which it will have on the mining industry, there is a disposition to seek Mr. Carlyle's pardon. Mr. Carlyle is all right and it is a matter of regret that he deferred his Kootenay visit so long. He is now in the Slovan and will report on this district soon. The result of his investigations in the form of his report, will be looked forward to with great pleasure."

All of which goes to show that the Mining Record was not wrong in its estimate of the Provincial Mineralogist.

One thing is certain, the unbiased reports of Mr. Carlyle will set at rest the doubts of skeptics abroad as to the great wealth of mineral treasure possessed by British Columbia, and this from more points than one is a decided gain.