

velopment Company transferred, it is stated, for 6,665 fully paid shares in the Gold Trust, Ltd., some \$22,000 in cash, an option on the Sidney Inlet copper proposition, and other options with the various other rights of the vendor company. The shareholders of the Dominion Development Company will thus receive thirty-seven and one-half cents a share for their holdings payable in Gold Trust stock, which is likely to advance in value, as the purchasing company is in strong hands and hold, it is believed, exceptionally valuable mining rights, including properties at Alberni on the Coast, in the Slocan and in the Bridge River district of Lillooet. The purchasing company has strong English capitalists behind it, and its most recent purchase has for this and other reasons, attracted much attention in and about Vancouver.

THE SMELTERS FIASCO.

There seems to be no further prospects of the establishment of the proposed Vancouver Smelter and Refinery by the London syndicate which so long since received a valuable conditional offer of civic corporation aid in the undertaking, by means of a municipal subscription to the stocks of the company and disappointment and some disgust are generally expressed by Vancouver citizens at this abortive result of negotiations, which have seemingly only served to exclude other suggested offers to build and work the much-needed Burrard Inlet smelter and refinery. At the moment no new offers are in sight though the late Mayor Templeton was, and Mayor Garden is, sanguine as to the early setting up of a Vancouver silver-lead and copper-gold smelter, combined with a small refining plant. There is no longer any doubt as to the constantly increasing need of such cheaply and easily accessible ore treating opportunities as could be afforded on Burrard Inlet to large numbers of promising properties on the Mainland coast and adjacent isles.

PROPOSED CHAMBER OF MINES.

Active endeavours are being made in Vancouver, and also your correspondent understands in Victoria, to establish a Provincial Chamber of Mines on like lines to similar institutions that have done and are doing good service to precious metal and other mining in South Africa and certain Australian colonies. Some of the Vancouver Board of Trade directors look rather askance at the project and would evidently prefer to substitute a mining and sub-committee or department of their own organization. The proposed Chamber would, however, if established, be instituted on a broad provincial basis, whereas any sub-committee or department of a Board of Trade would, almost of necessity, be more or less local in character. There are other objectors and likely opponents of the suggested Chamber as leading members of the Canadian Federated Mining Institute would prefer to have any provincial association of analogous bearing affiliated and subordinated to its own body, whilst the projectors of the Chamber are strongly of opinion that their organization should be upon a completely self-dependent provincial basis. Some of the mining men of the Kootenays are likely to claim that the Chamber of Mines should rather be inaugurated in their region and its offices there located at either Nelson or Rossland. The men behind the proposal, however, hold that in view of the great and steadily growing interests of

Vancouver Island, the Gulf isles, the Coast district, Cassiar, Omineca, Cariboo, Lillooet, and Yale, the proposed Chamber of Mines may, and this, too, without detriment to the Kootenays, be located either in Vancouver or Victoria. There are meanwhile influential mining men behind the project, their number including Mr. Pellew-Harvey, Mr. Barclay Bonthorne, and others; so too, it is said, the Hon. Col. Baker, Mr. W. A. Carlyle and other well-known Victoria men. The question, however, of the Chamber's headquarters is obviously a matter for future discussion but it is natural to suppose that the offices will be located in the district wherein the largest number of its representatives reside.

THE YUKON TRADE.

Vancouver outfitters will evidently, like their fellows in Victoria, enjoy a goodly share of the Yukon trade, and already intending northern gold seekers are many in the city and their aggregate purchases large whilst the outfitting stocks of the leading local merchants have latterly increased remarkably in size and value. Great anticipations are indulged in Vancouver over the prospect of the local outfitting and embarkation of a party of no less than 2,100 Klondyke travellers from Chicago, and already a big advance order has, it is stated, been given by its organizer, Mr. Tuttell, to the Hudson's Bay Company, involving an aggregate expenditure approaching \$500,000.

The historic company of merchant-venturers secured the contract after keen local competition, but there is no doubt that many another Vancouver firm will also benefit largely by the purchases of the Chicago party. Meanwhile, Mr. Wm. McCraney, ex-M.P. for Halton, Ontario, acting as a civic missionary of commerce, duly accredited by the Mayor and Aldermen of Vancouver, and backed by the possession of a big pile of Yukon maps and pamphlets, lately issued by the City Council, is making the most in the leading cities of eastern Canada of Vancouver's advantages as a point of outfitting and departure for the Yukon. Such successful efforts, made either on behalf of Vancouver or Victoria, seem to be by no means difficult in eastern Canada, as it is clear that there will be a big exodus of would-be Yukon gold miners, not only from the cities of Ontario and Quebec, but also from many of the rural districts. It is, however, to be feared that but too many migrants from rural villages in the eastern provinces will, unless sufficiently forewarned as to the cost, difficulty and danger of the undertaking, leave their homes, provided with far too scanty equipments in cash and kind to render probable the success of their endeavours in a far north land where, if as now reported, 250,000 adventurers will enter, must, however rich in gold the country proves, fail to make any substantial stake. However, the possibilities of making speedily a small or large fortune, heavily handicapped though the individual venturer may be, is ever an all sufficient allurements to "lands of gold" however stern their characteristics of soil and climate.

REPORTS FROM LYNN CREEK.

Rather more reassuring reports are to hand concerning the copper claims of Lynn Creek. The principal one is still being steadily developed by its owner, who remains quite confident of success and alleges that the recent abandonment of the bond upon it was due to lack of method on the part of the intending purchasers and not in