

dollar interest in the smelter trust is likely to be a part of a Morgan participation with Guggenheim in Alaska. It will be remembered that the Morgan and Guggenheim interests have worked together over the Copper River railroad and copper mines. In their railroad scheme they have fought the White Pass people in a contest over right of way. More important even than the copper mines is the coalfield at the foot of Mt. St. Elias, to exploit which a strong consolidation has been formed this week. A semi-anthracite coal has been found in quantity sufficient to make it a factor in the development of the Pacific coast; any mineral development that will break the high prices now paid in San Francisco is likely to be welcomed."

The arbitration committee provided for in the new agreement between the operators and the U.M.W.A. for this district, met at Banff during August. The committee is a permanent one and is composed of three operators and three union representatives. Its purpose is to consider all differences that may arise through different interpretations that may be put upon the various clauses of the agreement. The Western Coal Operators' Association was represented by Lewis Stockett, W. F. McNeill and — Williams, and the United Mine Workers of America by three officers of local District 18, viz., F. H. Sherman, president; John R. Galvin, vice-president; and J. A. McDonald, secretary. Mr. Galvin afterwards stated for publication that at the meeting "there was more harmony between the representatives of the mine workers and the operators than ever before. Each side is getting on a basis of understanding the other better. The men themselves understand both their contracts and the operators better. The operators also have come to understand the men better since last winter." Mr. Galvin further expressed the opinion that in Alberta there will be enough coal mined next winter to provide for commercial and industrial purposes but not for domestic use. He thinks an increase in production of about 3,000 tons of coal daily will be required to meet the winter's demands, but up to the present the daily increase is small. A report from another source stated that all unsettled questions were decided amicably, including that of the back-hand system which recently caused friction at the Lille colliery. It was decided to continue the system.

The *International-American* of Douglas, Arizona, on July 29 published the following despatch from Mexico City: "The supreme court this morning decided the final writ of amparo in the El Tigre litigation in favour of the El Tigre Mining Company by an unanimous vote of the thirteen judges. The decision reverses the Cananea judge on all points. The supreme court declares in its decision that payment was made by the El Tigre Mining Company in full compliance with its contract and that the acts of Graham and the Ensenada crowd were wholly

impertinent, illegal and without justification." The *International-American* added: "The decision just rendered by the supreme court of Mexico in favour of the Tigre Mining Company recalls one of the most sensational and bold attempts to take a mining property from those in possession who were its owners that has ever been recorded in the southwest, and the litigation which ensued for two years since the notorious midnight raid of July 6, 1905, by B. F. Graham, when accompanied by a body of armed men, he seized the Tigre mines in the state of Sonora, has been probably the most famous and fiercely contested that has ever occurred in the courts of Mexico. This litigation in its various stages, both civil and criminal, has occupied the attention of the highest federal and state courts of Sonora and has been before the supreme court of the republic of Mexico no less than five times, this last decision just rendered by this court being upon the merits on all points of appeal from the final decision of the federal district court of Sonora in favour of the Tigre Mining Company." The *MINING RECORD* has been informed that the B. F. Graham, above stated to have seized the Tigre mines, is now operating on the Pacific coast of British Columbia.

The walking gasometer known as "Chippy" Hill appears to have been amusing himself in characteristic fashion with some of the newspaper men during a recent visit to the coast cities. One modest assertion, which afterwards found its way into eastern newspapers was as follows: "The construction of a large blast furnace for the manufacture of iron and steel will be commenced shortly near Kootenay Landing, B.C., . . . Within two years we will be supplying steel rails to all points on the continent west of the Rockies as well as to the Orient. I have been authorized by members of the company to lay out comprehensive plans of development, including an expenditure during the next year and a half of \$2,500,000. Plans are being drawn up by a Pittsburg engineer. . . . The ore will be handled to the C.P.R. line at a rate of three thousand tons per day." Of course it is immaterial that Sir Thomas Shoughmessy and his associates, who some time ago were beguiled into paying a lot of money for iron claims they are not likely to obtain any return from for years, if at all, will probably deny all knowledge of the alleged intention to launch the big enterprise the gassy "Chippy" is reported to have talked about in such impressive language. By the way, it is a pity he did not tell the newspaper men about the "divvy up" at the time of the sale of those iron claims, for this has for years been regarded in the Kootenay as a striking instance of a successful endeavour to serve two masters at one and the same time. Then there was all the tall talk of the big new electric fan at the Hillcrest coal mine and the transformation which "if it is installed and working" would enable the immediate commencement of production of coal at the rate of 600 tons