

fer the consequences. All we care to consider is British Columbia's good name, which has been dragged in the mud too often as it is.

We have received some extracts from the preliminary report, made to the Hon. Clifford Sifton, of the Commission appointed to investigate the different electro-thermic processes for the smelting of iron ores and the making of steel, stated to be now in operation in Europe. Notes of what the members of the Commission saw at works in Sweden, Italy and France are included in the report, which, by the way, does not appear to us to have warranted the extremely sanguine anticipations of Eastern press correspondents and which we questioned last month. While the Commission saw processes in operation that indicated decided progress in the direction of the application of electricity to the manufacture of steel, its conclusions regarding the electric smelting of ore may be summed up in the words of the following excerpt from the report: "The process of electric smelting must yet be regarded as in the experimental stage, no plant existing at present where iron ore is commercially reduced to pig by the electric process." It is true the report, later, goes on to say: "We may expect that the application of electric energy to the extraction of metals from their ores will not be long delayed and that familiarity with handling large currents and experience gained in electric smelting will result in displacing some of the costly and complicated methods by comparatively simple and economic processes," but it is evident that as yet electro-thermic processes are not being applied on the large scale necessary to make them a commercial success.

It is unfortunate that the favourable reports of results obtained during the last few months at the Eva mine and stamp mill, Camborne, should be followed so quickly by an announcement that the Calumet & B. C. Gold Mines, Ltd., having exhausted its treasury, has not been able to exercise its option to purchase the Eva property, and that re-organization is necessary. The position is by no means a new one in connection with mining, the company having, like too many others, discounted its future by assuming financial obligations altogether beyond the capacity of an ordinary small mine to discharge and, as well, pay its working expenses. As a consequence mining in a very promising district gets a bad name, for the second time within a year. Whilst there can not fairly be charged in the case of the Eva similar mismanagement and reckless waste of money to that which last year wrecked the Northwestern Development Syndicate, operating in the same district, the effect upon those who put money into the Eva enterprise will be almost as discouraging. The lesson to be taken to heart is that with only a limited amount of development in a mine and inadequate equipment in a mill, eventual failure may, in most cases, be regarded as a matter of course, if the cash capital be small. The possession of a good mining property is not the only *sine qua non*—another essential is a

treasury reserve of cash or salable stock to meet unforeseen contingencies. Too often, though, chances are taken, with results as disastrous as those the Eva shareholders are now face to face with. It is to be hoped that some way out of the difficulty will be found, so that further development of the mine and the requisite addition to the mill plant may be provided for and work be pushed to the successful issue that appears to be possible.

The directors of the Providence Mining Company, of Greenwood, have decided to pay another dividend of ten cents per share. This will be the third dividend the Providence mine has earned, the first and second, each of ten cents, having been paid last year. The company enjoys several advantages; it owns a mine that has been fully paid for, its operations return all along a profit, and its issued stock is limited to comparatively few shares. From its inception the company has been managed on strictly business lines, so that after the output of the mine had provided sufficient money, in excess of current expenses and the cost of necessary plant and building improvements, to pay the balance due on the purchase of the property the surplus profits became available for distribution among the shareholders in the shape of dividends. The Providence mine is not a large one, but it has developed a payable lead of ore down to a depth of 325 feet on the incline and, in order to keep development well ahead of stoping, a contract has been let for sinking 100 feet deeper. Some interesting particulars of the mine and its ore returns were published in the MINING RECORD for April last. Though the company's operations have not been extensive they have been successful, and so have influenced the opening up of several other silver-gold claims in the neighborhood of Greenwood.

The Executive Committee of the Provincial Mining Association held a business meeting at Nelson last month. Among the matters dealt with were the question of the location of placer claims over mineral claims and the endorsement of an application to the Dominion Government for an extension of the benefit under the Lead Bounty Act to mines which are unable to get their lead ore treated in the Province. We print elsewhere a brief account of the proceedings at the meeting.

Advices we have received from Greenwood are to the effect that the installation of the converter plant at the B. C. Copper Company's smelter there will be completed shortly and that before the end of the current month blister copper will be produced at those works. At present the matte produced at this smelter is sent to Tacoma to be converted into copper, but we expect to next month be warranted in offering our congratulations to the B. C. Copper Company upon its successful accomplishment of this work at its own establishment.

The Provincial Mineralogist, himself an experienced metallurgist, characterizes the report of Mr.