

ores have to pay in any case. Therefore, the manufacture of this commodity should be a most profitable venture in British Columbia. The more the American Smelting & Refining Co. influences prices the more profitable it will be to compete with them. At the same time, to induce the necessary capital to enter this field of enterprise by means of a bonus for a short time would be a most beneficial action on the part of the government of the country. It is quite within the power of the local government, even without unduly trenching upon the income of the Province, to afford sufficient inducements to enable this industry to be established in the Province, and render this growing and most important industry independent of the manipulations of the American Smelting & Refining Company.

In last month's issue we suggested that the collection of mineral specimens sent from British Columbia to the Paris Exposition, and which are to be again exhibited this year at the Glasgow Exhibition, might be very advantageously augmented by the addition of models of the gold ingots produced last year from the clean-ups of the Consolidated Cariboo hydraulic mine, at Bullion. We are glad to learn from an authoritative source that the government has since, after taking the matter under consideration, made arrangements with the Cariboo company to forward to Glasgow, not only models of last year's ingots, but, in addition, an actual block of solid gold to weigh in the neighborhood of half a ton, and which will be recovered from the first wash-ups of this season's operations at the mine. Meanwhile the only expense to which the Province will be put in the matter, is the cost of transportation and insurance on this unique and valuable freight from either New York or Montreal to its destination. The appearance of this ingot at Glasgow cannot fail to attract a great deal of attention, and no better way of advertising the mineral wealth of the country could be possibly devised. The Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Company's public spirited and generous action in the matter is to be strongly commended, and we have also to congratulate the Hon. the Minister of Mines for having effected so excellent an arrangement.

The announcement that the royalty on gold mined in the Yukon has been reduced by the Federal authorities from ten to five per cent., will be received with general satisfaction. The alleged reason for this reduction having been made is that the direct revenue of the Territory is adequate to meet the expenditure on administration, but we are also inclined to the view that the representations of Mr. Ogilvie and others, who have had special opportunities of studying the conditions in this field have not been weightless in bringing about the desired change. The incidence of the tax is, however, still quite as unfair as before, for it is indiscriminately levied on gross output, and, therefore, must bear more hardly on some individuals, whose claims are more difficult or expensive to work,

than on others, and we hope ere long to see a considerable modification of, if not a radical departure from, the present method of compelling the mines of the Yukon districts to contribute the proportionate share of the revenue required for the proper administration of the Territory. During the past three and a half years the sum of \$2,040,000 has been realized from the imposition of the ten per cent. royalty tax on gold production, but there is every reason to expect that by the reduction of the impost to five per cent., and taking also into consideration the facts that by improved means of communication, reduction of freight rates, the completion of a telegraph system to Dawson, and the consequent decreased cost of living and labour, the actual annual revenue from the mines, instead of being less in the future, will show a substantial advance, as a result of the opening up of new territory, and the working of ground which, under previous conditions, could not be profitably operated. Meanwhile, the government, after affording some relief to the placer miner, seemingly desires to prohibit the exploitation of quartz mines, for an order in council has been passed this month, placing a tax on mining of this nature in the Yukon and Northwest, in the form of a royalty, which "shall not exceed five per cent." It is needless to say that while it is possible that lode mining might be carried on in the Yukon under very favorable circumstances, taxation is not likely to stimulate or encourage such undertakings.

Has not the time come for the division under various heads of the now generalized "other mineral products" of the Province, and for the obtaining of fuller details of their annual yield and value? The very most of such outputs is made in the Ontario mineral returns, and it certainly now seems that such items as marble and building stone, lime, iron, and clay and brick might well be separated from bulk, and classified, instead of being generalized, as hitherto. The values now being got from the quarries in marble and building stone and lime—especially in West Kootenay—must be rising very considerably, and there are evident good hopes of a greatly increased output of iron ore. There is some reason to believe that latterly the returns of bulk and values of these miscellaneous returns have scarcely done full justice to this branch of industry.

During the month of March according to a dispatch from our own correspondent (in which two days' shipments only are estimated) the Trail Creek mines shipped 39,000 tons of ore. This is 11,168 tons more than was shipped during any one month of 1900, and 38,721 tons more than was shipped during the corresponding month of last year, when, it is true, the mines were practically completely closed down. The comparative figures for the first quarter of last year are equally startling. During the first quarter of last year the Trail Creek mines shipped 32,172 tons, or less than the shipments of the month of March this