

for powder or caps to Victoria is often in consequence put to much serious inconvenience by the delay occasioned while arrangements are being made for shipment of his order by special vessel from Seattle. It appears that the C. P. N. Company has applied to the Dominion Government for licenses to carry explosives but that permission has been refused unless the company agree to assume all risks. These risks need not, however be great if proper precautions are taken as Mr. Machin suggests, and it seems rather absurd that explosives can be carried with impunity first across the Atlantic and then by rail across the continent, while they may not be taken in the same way a few additional miles by steamer upon their arrival at a Pacific Coast terminus.

A number of the residents of the Similkameen have signed a petition addressed to the Minister of the Interior, at Ottawa, asking that the Daly Reduction Company be granted a portion of the Indian Reserve near Hedley for smelter purposes in exchange for other and more desirable pasture land, to which arrangement the Indians themselves are most favourably disposed. In the petition the facts of the case are very clearly set out, and are briefly these: Mr. M. K. Rogers, acting on behalf of the Yale Mining Company and Daly Reduction Company, has spent a very large sum of money in this locality in the development of the Nickel Plate and other mines. Among other works which have directly benefited the public he has built over thirty miles of waggon road through the mountains, he has been a large employer of labour, and by his operations has done much to attract the attention of investors and others to a very promising section of country. On this showing it is submitted, he is entitled to every consideration. The company Mr. Roger represents, is now desirous of establishing smelting works in the neighbourhood, but the only available site in British territory is on Indian Reserve land, which is not and never has been utilized by the Indians, and it is pointed out, if the Department refuses the concession asked, the country will then lose an important industry. Application was first made for this land so long ago as 1899, but to unravel a tangle of red-tape nothing is equal to a strong "pull." In Canada we always place politics before business.

The export number of the *Engineering and Mining Journal* issued on January 7th is truly a monumental production, and surely marks a period in mining journalism, as it also indicates the remarkable development and growth in recent years of the mining industry of North America. This noteworthy weekly issue of a noteworthy publication contains no less than a hundred and forty-two pages of advertisements and sixty-six pages of letter-press matter printed in small type. The issue is given up almost exclusively to reviewing industrial and commercial conditions affecting the mining industry of this continent in 1903, and as such serves a far more useful purpose than the average governmental blue-book, because it is just as reliable, compiled by recognized experts, and strictly

"on time." We venture to say, for example, that Mr. S. S. Fowler's excellent summary of last year's mining developments in British Columbia, is a better advertisement for the Province than the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines which may be published any time between next March and next July. Of course, the Minister of Mines' Report may prove more useful for statistical purposes, and be valued accordingly by statisticians and archaeologists; but we need hardly discuss that point. We take the opportunity meanwhile of congratulating Mr. T. A. Rickard and his very able editorial staff not only on this wonderful special issue, but also on the high standard maintained in the ordinary weekly editions of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, by which it so easily substantiates its claim to be considered the "world's leading mining and metallurgical periodical."

The sensational death of Mr. Whitaker Wright, the mining promoter who took poison immediately after having been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude has special interest for those engaged in mining in this province. Certain of our most important mines were involved in his financial operations, and many of our mines have been subjected to methods almost equally disastrous by promoters who have either transgressed the law and evaded punishment or have kept their operations within statutory and penal limitations. Mr. Wright was not brought to justice for the main counts in which his promotions transgressed the rules of sound finance and ordinary business morality, but because he failed to keep in view the nice distinction existing between operations technically legal but morally outrageous, and operations in contravention of the criminal law. Had he been indicted for the former he would hardly have stood alone in the dock. That he should be punished for the latter when demand for his punishment was aroused by the effects of the former leads to the reflection that the interests of society would be better protected by measures against a very general financial corruption, than by the occasional punishment of some one of those who plunder society with impunity, who has happened to cross the line of statutory criminality. It may make successors more careful not to cross the line, but it will hardly make them less greedy to participate in the spoils of unwarrantable promotions. We have little to add to what we said in February, 1901, on the subject of the London & Globe and Mr. Whitaker Wright: "He gives the impression more of a daring actor in a saturnalia of corruption than of a mover and instigator of financial debauchery. . . . It becomes a difficult matter to apportion personal responsibility and one from which the severest critic may shrink. Under the veil of charity the features of Mr. Whitaker Wright may well be hid." If there was reason then for such language, there is greater reason now. He no longer flaunts great wealth in the eyes of the world but is dead at his own hand and lies in a dishonored grave.

A deputation representing the Executive Committee of the Provincial Mining Association recently inter-