

velopment work done in it, and is more than ever the banner zinc mine of the Dominion.

OTHER PERTINENT MATTERS.

Development work on the Wagner group, located on Hall Creek, Duncan River, carried on last summer, has uncovered an immense deposit of ore of excellent grade.

An urgent appeal has been made to the Dominion and Provincial governments for expenditure upon the river and road connections necessary for the marketing of the ore.

The question of the rates of wages paid for various lines of work in the St. Eugene mine having been under agitation for some time, steps were taken during the summer to bring the matter before a conciliation board, under the provisions of the Lemieux Act. The board, consisting of P. E. Wilson, judge of the county court; J. A. Harvey, Cranbrook, and S. S. Taylor, Nelson, went very fully into the case and made a report thereon.

The recommendations are not enforceable by any legal means, but the report is the result of so much investigation and the unanimous finding of a body so thoroughly competent, that any attempt to better it would be hopeless.

It may be hoped that for a long time the rates suggested will be accepted by all parties, with the result that the labour troubles that have done so much to disfigure our annual summaries of results accomplished in our mining camps and smelter towns will disappear.

EXTENSION OF LEAD BOUNTY ASKED FOR.

At a meeting of the Nelson board of trade, held on December 12, among other important business considered was the subject of extension of the period during which payment shall be made by the Dominion Government of the bounty on lead produced in Canada. Louis Pratt, of Sandon, submitted for the endorsement of the meeting the following memorial to Hon. Wm. Templeman, Dominion minister of mines, this having already been numerously signed by mine owners, managers and others actively interested in the lead mining industry:

"We, the undersigned, who have been producers of lead ore since the inception of the Lead Bounty Act, respectfully address you, as representing the mining industry of the Dominion, and request your favourable consideration of the following memorial, and further, that you favour us by bringing the same to the attention of the Right Honourable the Premier and your colleagues of the cabinet:

"1. That said lead bounty has, by insuring a stable minimum price, been most effective and beneficial to the lead mining industry, with it, too, the smelting and manufacturing industries, and consequently to the general commerce of the Dominion.

"2. That such results have been produced by a relatively small expenditure, as was anticipated, and as was represented when the original request for consideration was made to the Government. Out of \$2,500,000 originally voted to be expended in the

period of bounty terminating June 30 next, but \$616,976.02 have been expended up to December 1, 1907.

"3. That on account of the high tariff on lead ore and its products, still imposed by the United States government (which it was anticipated would have been reduced ere this), of the recent imposition by said government of a prohibitory duty on our zinc ores, a product of our lead-bearing veins, thus depriving us of a source of revenue and of the fact that the lead consuming capacity of Canada has not increased proportionately to our output, since the inception of the bounty, we shall at the expiration of said bounty period, be still unable to rely on a stable minimum price for our lead, sufficient to justify its production in the form of ore and the large expenditures on exploration and development work necessary to maintain our mines and with them the entire lead industry of Canada.

"4. That without such a stable minimum price we cannot produce our ores, during periods of low prices in the world's market, which governs the market of Canada and with such intermittent production the inducement to expend the necessary large sums in exploration and development will cease to exist, consequently the present ore reserves in our mines will be exhausted and with them the lead mining industry.

"5. That with the United States tariff and the consuming capacity of Canada as at present, the necessary stable minimum price can only be assured by a continuance of the present lead bounty or by an extraordinary increase in the existing Canadian tariff on lead and its products.

"The undersigned therefore respectfully request that the Lead Bounty Act be extended for a further period of five years, with an expenditure not to exceed \$500,000 in any one year."

T. G. Procter moved that a resolution, carefully worded, be adopted, embodying the views of the memorial.

J. J. Campbell seconded, asking, however, that sight should not be lost of the fact that a tariff on lead would be the more logical way of treating the matter.

This passing, Messrs. T. G. Procter, J. J. Campbell and L. Pratt drew up the following resolution to be presented at the annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade of South Eastern British Columbia for further endorsement:

"That this board approves of the petition which has been signed by all the principal lead producers of this section, asking the Dominion Government to extend the lead bounty for another period of five years after the expiration of the present term, recognizing that the attitude of the government is more favourable to this method of relief than to the readjustment of the tariff, which this board has always felt and still maintains would be the most effective assistance to placing both the local lead mining and smelting industries upon a firm basis.