

not, however, always deter parties from jumping claims they have no right to, or doing acts which they should not do, and therefore it would do good if the measures to be taken against them were made, by law, more severe.

Eastern wholesale houses, it is said, are to a certain degree afraid to push business in the mining districts because they say the country is new and the merchants in it have not had time, in many cases, to prove their reliability. This may be true, but on the whole, there is no reason why trade should not be profitable and merchants in as good standing in the mining districts as elsewhere. Trade is, of course, largely carried on with a floating population, and the greatest care should be taken by retailers in the matter of giving credit. It is the duty, however, of each and every one of the merchants in the mining districts to make it a point to meet their obligations promptly, or at least to avoid showing any neglect of them. A careful attention to this on the part of every one doing business will soon raise the general standard of the district.

Care on this point will enable the merchants to buy from the best houses, instead of second rate concerns. They will thus be able to buy cheaper and better goods—their profits will be larger and their customers will derive a benefit from their attention to the ordinary rule of business. We are induced to make these remarks because cases have been reported to us where carelessness and not inability to pay was the cause of bills not being met.

There is a very general desire for a better map of the Kootenay than at present exists. The Dominion Government has had men working on one for the last year or two, but as yet there is no sign of its appearance. The government at Ottawa is evidently not awake to the fact that, in British Columbia, there lies vast wealth in gold, silver and other valuable minerals, otherwise they would take more pains to let it be known to the world. A good map of the country would not only be valuable to outsiders, but it would be of immense benefit to the people living in the Province. The Provincial Government is doing what it can in the map line, but the Dominion authorities, with the facilities at their disposal, should provide an up-to-date map without delay. Why don't the local papers unite in demanding it?

The days for hauling ores long distances to be smelted are about past in the Kootenay. The activity of the Canadian Pacific Railway in its efforts to afford transportation facilities in the several mining districts is attracting attention, and our cousins across the line are beginning to fear that their hold on the Kootenay is in danger of being lost. Competition is the life of trade, and the more the railways waken up to this fact the better it will be for our mining districts.

It is, however, chiefly to the Canadian Pacific Railway that the people of the Kootenay will have to look in

the future. Cheaper coke provided by that company will enable smelters to be operated at home instead of having to send the ore to distant points in the United States. This will enable mine owners to operate their mines more profitably and will encourage the opening of new properties. The construction of the railway through the Crow's Nest pass, with its wealth of coal deposits, will simply boom the great Kootenay district for all it is worth. And that is a great deal.

The opening of the Nakusp, Slocan and Kaslo railway is an instance of what improved transportation facilities will do for a mining country. Good properties which have lain idle for several years in the Slocan district are now being opened up and ore shipments are pouring in to the railway from every direction.

We look forward with much expectation to the lectures about to be delivered in Victoria and Vancouver under the government auspices. Those who can afford to do should take advantage of the whole course. But as there will be many of our readers who will be unable to visit the Coast cities, we propose, with the consent of the government, to publish the lectures in the RECORD as fully as the space at our command will allow. This will, we think, prove a boon to many who have not the means or opportunity to attend the lectures, and will, in a measure, be aiding the government in the good work they are doing.

We also purpose commencing with February to devote a department of the RECORD to chronicling such matters connected with the office of Provincial Mineralogist as Professor Carlyle may deem proper to make public. Anything appearing in that department will be official, and therefore thoroughly reliable.

And now we appeal to mining companies, mine owners and holders of claims to send us samples of their ore, properly labelled with full particulars. These samples will be effectively displayed in our offices and will meet the eyes of many visitors interested in mining investments who visit British Columbia. Wherever possible we would like the samples in duplicate, so that we may be able to display them in our Victoria office as well as in Vancouver.

There are several other features in connection with the RECORD which we contemplate but which lack of space prevents our describing in this issue. All we propose, however, will tend towards attracting capital to the development of the mines of British Columbia.

It was a happy thought and a generous act on the part of the Canadian Pacific officials to offer to carry ore for prospectors to the smelters in ton lots at car load rates. It is good policy to aid prospectors in this way to enable them to ascertain the value of their claims. It will result in bringing about more active development.