

cent forcible attempts to expel Chinese workers from the Slocan districts. The Chinese in British Columbia have as valid a claim to the protection of their lives and property as we demand for British subjects in China. What we seek and are ready at all times to promote by such influence as lies at our command, is the further legal restriction by statute of Chinese labour immigration, not the cruel harrassment of Chinese already in the country, though we hold that he must, far more rigidly than is now usually the case, be made to strictly conform to the same sanitary and other regulations concerning social order, that affect the white population at large. And after all, it is the more skilful competition of very low wage accepting Japanese labour that most seriously now affects and will in the future yet more seriously affect our white working population, while it is admittedly most difficult for many reasons to restrict Japanese immigration in like position to that which can readily be applied to the Chinese. A fair day's wage for a fair day's work, measured in each case by a reasonable British American standard, is what should, so far as possible, be secured for worthy British Columbian workers. But this end should be certainly gained by only fair and legitimate means.

In an advertisement published in one of the Rossland papers inviting the public to buy shares in a Ymir mine, an extract from one of the late Provincial Minerologist reports referring in quite sufficiently cautious language to this property is quoted. But the amusing part about the notice is the evidence of anxiety on the part of the advertisers to lay stress upon the fact that Mr. Carlyle once expressed officially a more or less favorable opinion concerning the claim in question, and, perhaps, both to give this special emphasis and also to prove their keen appreciation of his excellent judgment in this particular instance, the late Provincial Minerologist figures in the advertisement as the "Hon." W. A. Carlyle! One can well realize how thoroughly Mr. Carlyle, who has a keen sense of humour, would enjoy this delicate bit of attention.

Mr. Pellew-Harvey, the Vancouver metallurgist, has hit on what seems to be a capital plan for enabling mine-owners to not only get the highest market prices for their ores, but also to check accurately the returns on consignments received from smelters. Thus in a circular letter, a copy of which we have before us, Mr. Harvey proposes to accept, F.O.B., at Vancouver parcels of ore in large or small quantities, which he agrees to purchase outright, deducting therefrom only the small cost of sampling and assaying. At the same time he will act as a sort of agent for mine-owners in dealing with foreign ore-purchasers for, he very truly points out, although good contracts may be made by mine-owners with smelting companies, there are occasions when shipments will receive higher quotations than at others, according to the demand at the time of sale. Mr. Harvey's object is to create a keener competition for B.C. ores among the smelting establishments of the United States and elsewhere. We are meanwhile glad to learn that in the matter of reduced freight rates on ore consignments from the mining districts the C.P.R. have displayed a liberal spirit.

Mr. Robertson, the Provincial Minerologist, we

understand, hopes to issue the annual Mines Report early in January of next year. If he succeeds in securing the necessary statistical information from mine-owners in time to carry out this intention it will certainly be an achievement worthy of being recorded in letters of gold upon the walls of the offices of the British Columbia Department of Mines.

A correspondent referring to the suggestion we made last month anent the subject of a necessary change in the system now employed for the registration of mineral claims in the offices of the Mining Recorders throughout the Province, relates an instance of claim-location in East Kootenay which he thinks sufficiently demonstrates the difficulty that would exist in the way of obtaining accurate information from the official records, even if the present system were bettered on the plan suggested in the MINING RECORD. A prospector near Golden located two claims which for present purposes may be described as the "Eureka" and the "Iron Cap." He subsequently sold both locations, but upon the purchaser leaving the district and failing to do the assessment work on the properties the original owner re-staked the "Iron Cap" ground, re-naming the claim the "Eureka," and at the same time made another location on presumably the same lead,—adjoining and in the same direction—calling this claim the "Iron Cap." Now, asks our correspondent, how would anyone searching the records distinguish between the two sets of claims, bearing in mind that the country is not surveyed, and that the registration description in both cases would be identical? So far as our own suggestion goes, we can only say that the above is certainly a most unusual complication, and that although such a case might possibly occur again, our correspondent does not take into account the fact that under the present system of registration the confusion would be still worse confounded, whereas, if our suggestion were acted upon and all record-entries relating to any one mineral locations were made under this heading in a specially indexed register kept for the purpose, instead of as now in several, the enquirer would, by turning up the entry in the case first cited, find that the claims "Eureka" and "Iron Cap" had either been abandoned or that the assessment work had not been performed upon them. He would then find elsewhere that subsequently two claims bearing the same name and in the same locality had been recorded, and here at once then would be some data upon which, if required, investigation could be instituted. That is all. But, of course, to go to the root of the matter, every claim should, on the plan adopted throughout Australia, be surveyed before it is recorded, and maps corrected up to date, kept in the Government office of each district. This system, however, is not likely to be introduced into British Columbia.

It will no doubt interest some of our readers to learn that Mr. E. S. Topping, of Trail, who, as we mentioned in our August issue, was referred to in the prospectus of the British Columbian Mineral Properties, Ltd., as having a "reputation second to none in British Columbia as a shrewd and clever mining engineer," has now entered an action against that somewhat doubtful concern for the recovery of the sum of \$387.67, cash paid out and work performed by him for the said company. What an opportunity for a version of Æsop up to date!