

could—an he would—easily have justified a change of front on the question. However, the result of the full and free discussion of the matter in both the Provincial legislature and the Dominion house will probably be the securing of pledges that a railroad will, ere the end of the year, be built into the Boundary country. If Mr. Corbin should receive the charter he asks, it is certainly to be hoped that, as the Hon. Mr. Blair suggested, there be inserted in the enabling Act certain provisions that will tend to prevent the use of the line for the purpose of further diverting the smelting industry from this to the other side of the international boundary.

Almost the only complaint to hand worth noting in regard to Mr. Carlyle's departmental report on British Columbia mining in 1897 comes from Golden. The "Era" bitterly complains that there is no word in the report of the rapidly extending mine work of 1897 in the fairly promising North East district of Eastern Kootenay. The "Era" attributes this to some animus on the part of the Hon. Col. Baker, M.P.P., the local representative, who is also the Province's Minister of Mines. We certainly think it is far more probable that the Provincial Government's agents and representatives in the district failed to submit much in the way of reports. The Illicillewaet Division is, by the bye, very meagrely noted in the Report—probably for a like reason, though no district in the Province has been more boomed of late in England.

There are, as we expected, already strong indications of serious trouble in the Yukon to follow any large influx of Japanese cheap labor. Thus a Belgian goldseeker has, it is stated, been compelled to turn back at the Summit pass and abandon his effort, as a result of finding it hazardous to take with him into the Klondike his retinue of three Jap laborers. The race hostility thus evinced is regrettable, but natural enough, and certain to continue and even increase, so long as the little "brown man" will allow himself to be worked in competition against the white laborer, at rates of remuneration that are far below the standard of legitimate Western Canadian requirements. And neither can we in British Columbia nor those beyond us in the Yukon suffer the dominance of the British stock to be threatened by any abnormal influx of oriental immigration.

The Province has, like most of its contemporaries in British Columbia, declared itself as on the whole in favor of the imposition of an import duty on manufactured lead products, in order to build up our silver-lead smelting and the various connected industries. This is the more notable, as it makes a distinct, if temporary, abandonment of the principle so long and so boldly advertised on the very

forefront of the Province, which declares its policy to be one of "free trade and direct taxation." To this tag, looking at things in Canada as they are and are likely for some time to remain, whatever party be in power, our contemporary might well add the Gladstonian phrase "in the dim and distant courses of the future," for certes, whether we of the Pacific Province like protection or not, "free trade accompanied by direct taxation," is only a little more likely to be brought about in the Dominion at an early date, than is the single tax system of the late Mr. Henry George. It is but fair to admit, however, that under the untoward circumstances of the present, even a theoretic free trader may well be excused for advocating a duty on lead, as a temporary expedient, justified by apparent local necessity.

Mr. Ogilvie is, unless very inaccurately reported, as is quite possible, and in our opinion more than likely, doing some "tall talking" in England on the Yukon's opportunities. Thus the "Financial News," of London, England, makes him state that there are 7,000,000 miles of unexplored land in the Yukon. Unfortunately, however, for the assertion, large as is our noble Dominion, the whole of Canada, exclusive of the great rivers and lakes, occupies about half only—in round figures—of seven million square miles.

A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE.

It is reported that it is possible that Mr. J. M. Mackinnon, the well-known mining capitalist, may contest the Lillooet constituency which Mr. A. W. Smith, M. P.P., now represents in the Provincial Legislature. Should this happen, the contest will be of somewhat special interest to mining men, both gentlemen being so largely associated in their respective ways with this industry.

Mr. Mackinnon, the dissolution of whose partnership with Mr. G. W. De Beck has just been announced, has now removed to the Mackinnon block on Granville street, which is becoming the Vancouver business home of many mining men and undertakings.

A ROSSLAND PRONOUNCEMENT.

The Rossland Board of Trade has as strongly endorsed Mr. Corbin's railroad project as the Vancouver and Victoria Boards of Trade have condemned it. Per contra, other representative bodies and organizations in South Kootenay than the Rossland Board of Trade have favored the C. P. R.'s antagonism to the proposal. In fact, in West Kootenay opinion seems to be somewhat sharply divided on the issue. Nelson indeed seems to oppose Mr. Corbin's scheme as keenly as Rossland supports it.