

cord" book (or books) from cover to cover, and later other records to learn particulars of transfer or registration of annual assessment work—the only actual "record" of a claim being the stub or duplicate of the printed form torn from the Record Book and handed to the locator when registering his property. In any other country where mining had developed sufficiently to be classed as an industry so unbusiness-like a system of claim registration would certainly not be tolerated, and it is to be hoped the matter will receive that attention at the hands of the proper authorities it deserves. Meanwhile, we would suggest that when a claim is recorded the entry should be made in a specially prepared indexed ledger and all subsequent registrations relating to the property should be entered under this heading in the same register. This system would undoubtedly, in point of convenience and simplicity, be superior to that at present employed.

According to the *Era*, published at Golden, East Kootenay, a record in the way of claim-locating was recently established near that place by a man named McLeod who, it is stated, staked no less than fifty-three mineral (?) claims, at Windermere, in two weeks,—an average of nearly four claims to the day's work. Even assuming that this energetic individual had previously prospected this enormous area sufficiently thoroughly to find "mineral in place" upon all the fifty-three claims he subsequently staked, the feat is nevertheless remarkable and a man who could blaze the lines and cut the posts for four locations of presumably fifty-two acres each in one day and keep this up for a fortnight at a time should be in a position to command a handsome salary from the once numerous "territory-acquiring" syndicates making a specialty of floating "wild-cats" of this description. We are, meanwhile, glad to learn, on the authority of the Minister of Mines, that some effort is to be made by the Government to put a stop to the practice of promiscuous claim staking, of which the above is an ordinary example, and that this and other abuses will probably be dealt with by a Commission of representative mining men to be appointed for the purpose of suggesting necessary amendments to the present Mineral Act.

Among prospectors and claim-owners generally, there is a deep-rooted and a, perhaps, reasonable objection to the constant introduction of changes in the mining laws, for, no sooner, they complain, is the Provincial Mineral Act with its amendments, more or less, thoroughly mastered by men of their class, than its intricacies are further complicated by additional alterations of a complex character. Mere "tinkering" with the present Act is not, we admit, particularly desirable, but, on the other hand a complete revision of the mining laws by a competent board of commissioners duly representing the interests of both capital and labour would unquestionably result advantageously to the industry.

The British Columbia Chamber of Mines have commenced with an October issue, the publication of a monthly periodical named appropriately, *The Bulletin*. The first number contains several interesting articles, and we can conscientiously congratulate the Chamber on this display of energy. But if the *Bulletin* is to serve a really useful purpose its editor must aim at providing the public with authentic

statistical information of a character not easily obtainable by journals of the ordinary class. This at the present time will prove a very formidable task; but if the Chamber can win the confidence and recognition of the Kootenay mining communities, special facilities for securing desired monthly mine statistical data would doubtless result therefrom. There is meanwhile a sort of sturdy independence about Rossland and other interior camps which refuses to regard kindly Coast interference of any description, however well intended. This is not, perhaps, quite the right spirit, in the interests of the Province as a whole, but locally there is no denying, it has worked to advantage.

Our London correspondent sends us the following brief review of British Columbia affairs in the great metropolis for the month:

That Canadian mining enterprise is closely followed by the leading financial houses in this country is beyond dispute.—As a matter of fact there are very few of them which have not some Klondyke or British Columbia property under consideration. The people who bring them over to this country seem sadly disappointed because they cannot immediately, and for cash, dispose of the same. It will, probably, however, be found in due course, that where their statements will bear the strictest investigation by English engineers, they will receive all the attention to which they are entitled. The London & Globe meeting was one of the events of the month. Both the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, and Mr. Whitaker Wright made statements which smacked a good deal of "explanations." Many people thought both gentlemen protested too much. Meanwhile, the price of B. A. C's. is 17s. And the state of the market is such that representative shares like New Gold Fields, B.C. Development, London B.C. Gold Fields, and Hall Mines, are no better than, respectively 17s. 6d., 25s. and 16s. 3d. Dealings are few and far between, and business very dull and limited.

Our report, which will be found elsewhere, of Rossland's ore shipments shows a very satisfactory state of affairs. The shipment of ore is now about 4,000 tons per week, which would make, if kept up, an aggregate of 200,000 tons in the year. Nor do the Rossland mining men speak with any uncertainty about the possibility of exceeding this weekly output. Shrewd men of business, not optimistic dreamers, confidently assert that this will be more than doubled in the course of a year or so. Now, 200,000 tons of ore at an average value of say \$20, gives a yield of four million dollars per annum. And this will undoubtedly be Rossland's output ere long. When the great Slocan country, the Ymir district, the Lardeau country and the valley of the Kettle River are also taken into consideration it will easily be seen that it is hard to overestimate the possibilities and the actualities of the great gold country in the interior of British Columbia.

Rosslanders are spending plenty of money in laying out their town. Streets are being graded and sidewalks set out, bridges planned and viaducts constructed, and the mining camp on the steep slopes is fast becoming a dangerous rival in point of size and wealth, to the coast cities of Victoria and Van-