

supply. We have always been of opinion that this was the effect produced by a rise in price, and not only so, but that a rise in price was the most effectual, in fact the only effectual, method of so restricting the use of any article. The rise in price is likely not merely to restrict the use but also to bring out a larger supply, so adjusting the balance. Whereas, an attempt by agreement to limit the demand, if it did have any effect, which is most improbable, without increasing the price, would occasion no stimulus to the search for an increased supply of the metal. In the various articles on the subject we have seen lately what we should consider one of the chief dangers of an excessive rise in price has not been hinted at. It is, that platinum, having become the most valuable metal, except one or two so rare as to almost be unknown, except to science, may be rushed upon as a means of personal adornment. It is certain that the dearer it became, the more it would be prized for this purpose. It is fortunately an ugly metal. But then, aesthetically, gold is not so beautiful as copper in its various alloys particularly. Yet on account of its rarity and value large quantities are consumed every year in all kinds of jewelry. A similar sentiment inspired by its rarity towards platinum would have a serious effect upon its price and availability for industrial purposes.

A very remarkable testimony to the Canadian administration of the Yukon Territory is published in the columns of the *Spokesman Review* of Spokane, Wash., U. S. A. We make no apology for publishing it in full:

"For several years after the discovery of gold in the Klondike, there were bitter complaints by the Americans in that country over the injustice dealt out by Canadian officials, and it was commonly asserted by those having grievances that the administration of affairs would have been quite different had the rich placers been discovered on the American side.

"Since that early period of discontent in the Klondike, rich placers have been discovered on the American side and their uncovering was followed by a rush that in numbers and excitement nearly equalled the stampede to Dawson. The Americans have had an opportunity to show what they could do in properly administering a remote mining camp, and it must be confessed that a comparison of the methods of regulating mining, maintaining the law and providing the security to life and property is decidedly to the advantage of the British.

"In two years there has been as much crime and lawlessness at Nome as there has been at Dawson since its founding, five years ago. In the American camp there has been unprecedented disrespect shown the rights of property. It is two years' story of claim jumping, dispossession by force and interminable disputes over boundary lines. A camp, which, under British jurisdiction, would probably have been comparatively free from crime and disorder, with claim owners working peacefully and recording a large output of treasure, has, under American jurisdiction, been plunged into endless litigation that has paralyzed the energies of the district, tied up its properties, and made it a community of idlers, brawlers and discontents.

"Justice, according to all accounts, has been administered in a fashion most lame. Mining rights have been abridged or destroyed through the agency of unnecessary receiverships, projected work has been abandoned through fear that a disclosure of riches might result in a transfer of the property from the owners to the Court. Judicial scandals have furnished the principal topic of conversation for a year, and the President of the United States is now petitioned by members of the Nome bar to remove the Federal judge on the ground that he is weak and vacillating and dilatory, weak and partial, negligent, careless and absolutely incompetent.

"This is a most unhappy record for a camp that is indisputably rich

and which at one time was thought to be so full of promise. Its development has been hampered by unfortunate circumstances, the most striking of which appears to have been that lack of orderly and prompt administration of affairs which obtained at Dawson during the early years of its history.

"The difficulties at Nome may be overcome and the camp will thrive, but in the meantime it may be fitting to abstain from criticisms of methods in mining camps across the line."

The appointment of Dr. Haanel by the Dominion Government as head of a mining bureau at Ottawa, is part of measures being taken to erect the mines branch of the Department of the Interior into a practical and useful part of the public service. For several years Dr. Haanel was professor of geology and mineralogy at Victoria college, Cobourg, and for the last eleven years has occupied the same position at Syracuse university. He was commissioned by Mr. Sifton to open the Assay office at Vancouver, and succeeded by incredible exertions in having it installed and in operation within three weeks time.

As quoted in the *Toronto Globe*, Dr. Haanel may be presumed to recognise the peculiarity of the present arrangement by which Yukon gold is assayed and paid for in Vancouver and Victoria and then shipped to Seattle just the same as before:—"My idea" he said "would be for the Government to purchase all the Yukon gold. Let them open an office, properly equipped, where the gold could be received and weighed and then exchanged for currency. It is better to keep the gold in the country than let it go to the other side. We shall need it for the Canadian mint."

Mr. A. B. W. Hodges, superintendent of the Granby smelter writes to the *MINING RECORD* as follows: "I regret to say that on account of the machinists strike in the East our arrangements for adding to the capacity of our works have been seriously interfered with, and from present indications it will be impossible to complete the proposed improvements before the New Year. Of course, you will understand that we are adding two more copper-matting furnaces which, when completed, will make four and will give us a smelting capacity of 1,300 tons per day. We have also increased our sampling and crushing capacity so that the combined output will be 2,000 tons per day if required. We are also putting in a converter plant to treat from 100 to 150 tons of matte per day and with our water-power we feel that we can treat matte cheaper than anyone in this country and we contemplate making contracts and treating here most of the output of copper matte made in B. C. and from other outside sources."

The abstract of the report of the Alaska-Treadwell Gold Mining company which we publish in another