

The Slocan district is undoubtedly recovering from the partial paralysis induced by the action of the American Smelting and Refining company at the beginning of this year. It is claimed that during the month of October more ore was shipped than during any month of October since the Slocan was discovered. The output is estimated for that month at 3,300 tons, and there is no reason to believe that it will show any diminution during the last two months of the year. If it does not, then the last quarter of the present year will add 10,000 tons to the sum total from that district. This will bring the production to within a measurable distance of the output of last year, and is particularly encouraging on account of showing what can be done even in the present very unsatisfactory condition of the silver and lead markets. So often has an era of steady production been prophesied for the Slocan country, and so often has some unforeseen circumstance blighted the legitimate hopes of those engaged in the industry of mining there, that any forecast of the future has become hazardous in the extreme. Still, at the present time, it looks as though the progress of the district was assured, if only from the fact that it is now showing evidence of progress, and that there is no further drawback or difficulty under which it could suffer which could be either imagined or invented.

A most interesting return from a shipment of ore from the Triune mine in the Lardeau illustrates two things, the very high grade of some of the ore discovered in that district and the enormous charges and deductions to which ore mined in places so remote from railway transportation is subject. The shipment comprised 414 sacks of ore, the gross weight of which was 49,776 lbs. nearly 25 tons. The sacks weighed 1,200 lbs., and the moisture deduction was 4.3, leaving a net weight of 46,487 lbs. of ore. The smelter assays per ton, of the shipment, (the basis of the purchase price) were .40 ounces in gold, 345.6 ounces in silver, and 53.8 per cent. lead. The total gold values were 9.297 ozs., at \$20 per ounce for 95 per cent., or \$176.64. The total silver values were 8032.95 ozs., at the exceedingly low price of 57 1-8 cents per ounce, for 95 per cent., or \$4,359.38. The total lead values were 25009 lbs., at the dreadfully low price of 1.482 cents per lb., for 90 per cent., giving the owners only \$334.25. The gross values, therefore, were \$4,870.27, the total charges, at \$21.00 a ton for freight and treatment from the Landing, were \$488.11, leaving net values of \$4,382.16. Out of this the cost of mining, packing to Ten-Mile, freighting to the Landing, and the Provincial ore tax has still to be deducted.

The situation at Rossland and Northport does not grow any clearer as time goes on. It may, and we hope it is progressing to a permanent and satisfactory settlement, but there are so many tangled threads in the skein that they can only be unravelled by pure conjecture.

The trouble with the unions, the course of the stock market in London, and the questions as to the conditions of the mines and smelter and their business, produce a situation of some complexity. To further confuse affairs there is the circumstance that each fact as it occurs is immediately interpreted to suit the sympathies of one side or the other to the dispute, so that its causes and meaning probably undergo an unconscious process of mental distortion before people outside of Rossland have an opportunity of considering them. During the last month, the resignation of Messrs. Bernard Macdonald and Bela Kadish, the visit of Mr. Frecheville, the appointment to, and immediate departure from, Northport of Mr. Labarthe, of Trail, the heavy drop in Le Roi shares in London, and in spite of all the considerable tonnage of ore shipped and mined, are all facts which show that the action in the Le Roi drama is moving rapidly to some denouement. Although to make head or tail of these facts, and of their relations to one another, is beyond the wit of the ordinary observer.

Some of the English financial papers have been booming the Giant mine, at Rossland, in a way not warranted by the position or prospects of the property. Of course a company cannot be held responsible for what newspapers say about its property, but the puffs in question have all the ear marks of having been inspired by the "shop" which has the shares of the Giant in charge. The Giant property possesses a well-defined outcrop of pyrrhotite on which a shaft has been sunk to some depth, but if any paying ore has been taken from this shaft we are not aware of it. Above this outcrop there is an irregular showing of arsenical iron in a silicious gangue carrying traces of molybdenum, or some such material, which is supposed to carry tellurides of gold. From this outcrop the shipments of ore from the Giant have been made, and they have returned satisfactory values. There is no reason to believe that the Giant will not make a good mine when it has been developed and equipped, but to compare it with developed mines which have a tonnage of ore in sight, and to recommend the purchase of shares in it on an investment basis is a mere playing upon the ignorance of actual conditions so common among English investors.

The project has been revived of organising a general Mining Association, to cover the interests of the mining industry over the whole Province of British Columbia. The question of the advisability of such a course is complicated by the existence already of the Mine Owners' Association which has headquarters at Nelson. If a general association were organised it would have to be either independent of, or amalgamated with, the present Mine Owners' Association. If it were independent of that body it would be regarded as hostile to it, and we question under which set of circumstances an association would be of least general use — hostile to,