

slowly but none the less surely coming into its own. The wild-cat speculative element is practically dead so far as the Province is concerned; good work has been done in organising and developing on sane and safe lines, properties which are known to be of permanent value; while the higher price for the metal now ruling means not only additional profits to the recognised producers, but furnishes an incentive for the development of new and carefully surveyed propositions. Generally speaking, those interested in British Columbian mining have no reason to regard the future with anything but an easy mind. If, at times progress has seemed slow to the onlooker, it has been none the less sure, and to-day the industry in practically all its branches can claim to rest upon a sure and sound basis, which allows of at least the adoption of an optimistic attitude when attempting to forecast its future."

In the course of his speech at the recent opening of the Provincial Legislature, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor said regarding mining in the Province: "You will be gratified to learn that the mining industry is showing signs of great activity throughout the Province. While the older mining districts are steadily increasing their output, new mineral areas are being opened in the interior and along the coast, some of which give promise of great mineral wealth. With the reduction which is steadily going on in the cost of the treatment of ores, the importance of the mining industry in the provincial economic situation is rapidly increasing, and large additions are being made to the capital invested in smelting and allied industries." In the address of the House in reply the following lines occurred: "We are gratified to learn that the mining industry is showing signs of great activity throughout the Province, and that while the older mining districts are steadily increasing their output, new mineral areas are being opened in the interior and along the coast, some of which give promise of great mineral wealth. We agree with the view that with the reduction which is steadily going on in the cost of treatment of ores, the importance of the mining industry is rapidly increasing."

After a long-continued search for ore at depth in its Tyece mine, at Mt. Sicker, Vancouver Island, the Tyece Copper Co. has at last met with some encouragement in finding ore at the 1,000-ft. level where, at a point 210 ft. south of the main shaft, a vein of mineralised rock or low grade ore has been intersected. Where cut this vein is about 3 ft. in width. It contains sulphate of barium and low values in copper and the precious metals. The presence of barytes at this depth is considered a most promising indication, for the only big shoots of ore as yet known to occur in this mine—those worked above the 300-ft level—carried up to 35 per cent barium sulphate. These shoots, including their extensions into Lenora ground, have yielded between 200,000 and 300,000 tons of commercial ore. Since no ore of value in

quantity had been met with below the 300-ft. level during prospecting operations that have been carried on without interruption for two years, last week's discovery, though not yet proved to be of any considerable value, possesses particular significance to mining men familiar with the Tyece mine, as it opens up a prospect of success in the further search for ore now being vigorously prosecuted and which, if fully realised, will give the mine a new lease of life.

The Britannia Smelting Co., which on 4th inst. commenced smelting operations at its works at Crofton, Vancouver Island, on 12th inst., made its first shipment of blister copper—50 tons, consigned to New Jersey. Since then other lots have been shipped. The Crofton smelter was erected in 1901-2 by Messrs. Jas. Breen and H. C. Bellinger, who organised the Northwestern Smelting & Refining Co. The works were operated until the early part of 1904, when the available supply of ore became so small that they were closed down and thereafter remained idle until last autumn, when they were acquired by the Britannia Smelting Co. Since then plant and buildings have been put in good order and additions made under the direction of the company's general manager, Mr. Thos. Kiddie. The bulk of the ore being treated comes from the Britannia Copper Syndicate's Britannia mine at Howe Sound, distant 58 miles from the smelter. Smaller quantities have been received from the Brown-Alaska Co.'s Mamie mine, Prince of Wales Island. South-east Alaska: from Mullen, Idaho, and other mines. A shipment of 400 tons of ore from the Mamie mine, and 495 tons of copper matte from the Alaska Smelting & Refining Co.'s smelter at Hadley, Prince of Wales Island, arrived at Crofton during the month.

We learn with much regret that Mr. E. C. Musgrave has resigned the position of superintendent of the Tyece mine, at Mt. Sicker, Vancouver Island. It is nearly six years since Mr. Musgrave was appointed to that position, and during that period he has given the Tyece Copper Co. zealous and efficient service. When first he took charge there had been less than 300 ft. of development work done in the mine, and that with but small results as regards the discovery of ore. For some months a visiting consulting engineer directed the prospecting of the mine, and then Mr. Musgrave was authorised to proceed with development according to his own ideas. Within a month of this change having been made ore was encountered in a raise from the old prospect workings; then a cross-cut from what was at that time the new shaft entered the ore at 40 ft. from the shaft. Where cut this ore shoot was found to be 23 ft. wide. The shaft was next deepened to 200 ft. and a level was opened at 165 ft. From that time to the present nearly 140,000 tons of commercial ore have been mined from this ore body and shipped to the Tyece Co.'s smelter at Ladysmith—a record that any mine manager would be amply justified in feeling proud of. Mr. Musgrave's resignation is not to take effect