

grade of material in one operation can be and probably are run at a lower cost per ton of ore smelted than is possible under existing conditions in the Boundary; but then, the advantages mentioned are either wholly or in part offset by the frequent necessity for using barren fluxing material. The larger smelters, say of Tennessee for instance, may fairly claim to have improved methods of treatment as compared with even the modern practice followed in the Boundary, and these contribute to a reduction in the consumption of coke to approximately 3 per cent. as compared with 12 and 13 per cent. in the Boundary. These are among the reasons that lay open to question the unqualified statement that the cheapest smelting practice extant is in British Columbia. As to the anticipation of a possible further reduction in smelting costs, no prudent metallurgist will lose sight of the fact that already there exists in the Boundary a necessity to conserve iron ores. This is no secret, for last April the MINING RECORD published a contribution by the resident representative of a well-known smelting company in which the following occurred: "To guard against possible scarcity of iron fluxes it has, therefore, become the general practice to conserve the iron ores of the mines." Where, we may ask, will be the suggested reduction of smelting costs if it be found necessary, as a year or two hence it may be, to bring in iron flux from distant points? We are not alarmists in this matter, but it is a duty to dispel illusions even when such a course is not an agreeable one.

In regard to whether British Columbia coal companies burn their coke sufficiently long, Mr. Campbell-Johnston states that their present practice is to coke the coal in the ovens for only twenty-four hours. We doubt the accuracy of this statement and we think that Mr. Campbell-Johnston has not sufficient justification to warrant him in spreading it broadcast throughout the British mining world. The information given to us by men employed in the work of coke-making at the collieries of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company is that they burn the coke from sixty to seventy-two hours, and we were shown scores of ovens with the coke at one or the other of the stages of one, two or three days' burning. Then we have authority that we accept without hesitation for the statement that the Union (Vancouver Island) coke is seventy-two-hour coke, and that physically it is hard, compact and well-suited to stand the burden of the charge in the blast furnace. We have before us the average analysis of a large quantity of coke from these ovens; it is as follows: Volatile hydro-carbons, 6.94 per cent.; fixed carbon, 68.64 per cent.; ash, 22.16 per cent., and sulphur 2.30 per cent.

Perhaps we ought not to take Mr. Campbell-Johnston so seriously, for doubtless he means well, notwithstanding that he seems to sometimes mix things up badly.

MR. S. F. PARRISH AND THE LE ROI MINE.

IN a recent letter to the MINING RECORD Mr. S. F. Parrish, the late general manager of the Le Roi mine, writes: "So much has been said in both the English and American papers about the Le Roi and my management of it that was untrue and unjust to me that it seems almost forced upon me to say something in reply. At first I felt that the right thing to do was to let it go and pay no attention to it, but as in your journal you were kind enough to say that judgment should be suspended until I had been heard from, I have written the enclosed statement of facts, making it as concise as I could. More could be said, but it is unnecessary.

"In a large degree the whole trouble arose from the monthly publication of estimated values, a pernicious custom which a majority of the Board of the Le Roi Mining Company insist upon keeping up; this and the endeavour to harmonise the legitimate business of mining for what there is in the mine with speculating in the stock of that mine—the two occupations have nothing in common."

In his statement of the case Mr. Parrish says:—

"In view of the fact that numerous articles have appeared in the American as well as in the English press concerning the Le Roi mine at Rossland, British Columbia, it is but right that some facts relative to this property be placed before those interested in mining, as they are of importance. With this end in view I am glad to avail myself of the courtesy of the MINING RECORD to give them publicity.

"When, in February, 1903, I took charge of the Le Roi mine, and the smelter at Northport, Washington, I was informed by my predecessor, Mr. John H. Mackenzie, that the mine was about worked out and its life would continue not to exceed six months, or into the summer of that year. The necessity of immediately inaugurating a plan of prospecting, and putting it into action, was apparent, and it was done. Diamond drill holes and cross-cuts were made to the south of the old workings into entirely new territory, with satisfactory results in many instances. On the bottom or 1350-ft. level, 1200 feet vertical depth from the surface, the result was very valuable, disclosing, as it did in places bodies of merchantable ore; valuable not only to the Le Roi mine but to the Rossland camp in general, the discovery demonstrating, for the first time on Red Mountain, the existence of ore at great depth. In addition to finding this solid ore, a highly mineralized zone, extending the entire length of the claim, was found, opening a large field for warranted prospecting. So successful was this work that upon my retiring from the general managership of the affairs of the company on June 1 last there was as much (if not more) ore in sight in the mine as at any previous time in its history.

"The method, adopted some years ago, of sampling the output of the mine at the mine had only recently been actually proved to be faulty, although both the late Mr. Oscar Szontagh, former manager of the Northport smelter, and Mr. E. J. Wilson, the present