

concentration robs it of this quality, and may make it not a whit more desirable to a smelter than any other ore. His remarks about smelters and concentrators show an equal lack of accurate knowledge. The relative value of smelting *per se*, and of smelting preceded by mechanical concentration, cannot be determined in the off-hand way adopted by him. It requires careful experiment and calculation." All of which is very true, only as even an exact and lucid statement of the case would doubtless have conveyed no more meaning to the other gentlemen present on this occasion, who were probably quite content so long as nothing disagreeable was told them, no great harm was done. The Syndicate is very wise in leaving technical matters largely in the hands of its technical representative.

Satisfactory reports continue to be received of the new discoveries at Poplar Creek, but so far none of these reports, that we are aware, have emanated from sources that could be regarded as official or authoritative. The field may and doubtless does embrace a large area of exceptional richness and promise, and on those grounds an early official corroboration of the news spread by prospectors and less responsible persons is very much to be desired. Probably none of the Departments of the Provincial Government require re-organization to the degree of the Mines' Department, which at present we feel impelled to say, is exceedingly inefficiently and unsystematically administered. The Annual Report of the Department is largely valueless by reason of the tardiness of its appearance, while absolutely no attempt is made to supply the public with information beyond this. If no better state of affairs had previously prevailed, possibly existing deficiencies would not be so glaringly apparent; but if it were possible to organize an efficient system of work such as was in force half a dozen years ago, why not now, or why should that system have not been continued? The Provincial Mineralogist passed through Nelson the other day on his way to East Kootenay. East Kootenay is a very important field, but at the moment there is nothing there requiring the immediate presence of this official. On the other hand, Poplar Creek is no great distance from Nelson, and it is in the interest of the public that early official information on Poplar Creek should be procurable. If Poplar Creek and the adjacent territory is as rich as is supposed, a confirmatory report by the Provincial Mineralogist published in the form of a Bulletin and largely circulated would have a considerable affect in interesting outside capital in the new discoveries; if the reports were

found to have been exaggerated, it is very nearly as important that this also should be shown.

Bulletin No. 11, issued by the Bureau of Provincial Information and embracing a general review of Mining in British Columbia, should prove a very useful publication. The demand for Bulletin No. 7, published last January, and containing similar information, was such that the whole issue of 2,500 copies was exhausted in thirty days. The Secretary of the Bureau, Mr. R. E. Gosnell, points out that "these bulletins are not intended to, and do not, cover common ground with the Minister of Mines' Annual Report. They are intended to give a more or less popular description of mining conditions in the Province as a whole, at the same time dealing with each district separately; whereas the Minister of Mines' Report is technical, describes individual properties, and deals more particularly with the current year's developments. One is for general and the other for particular information." In the bulletin now under notice Mr. Gosnell has assembled much information, including important additions to that given in the earlier bulletin. He has gathered the matter from the Minister of Mines' Report, from articles specially contributed to this journal, from valuable papers on topics connected with mining written by men well-informed on their respective subjects, and from whatever other sources yielded suitable material. Tables of statistics showing mineral production and admitting of interesting comparisons being made also appear, and, too, a synopsis of the mining laws of the Province has been added. The whole of the varied information given is contained in a handy-sized pamphlet of 208 pages, which should in a very effective manner serve the useful purpose for which it has been compiled.

The June issue of the *Dominion Labour Gazette*, published by the Department of Labour, Ottawa, contains a fifth and final article on "Labour Organization in Canada—Its Growth and Present Position," this number dealing with labour organization in British Columbia. The statistics were collected several months ago, and, with the stated object of basing the several articles of the series (which began last September) on a common investigation and with reference to a common point of time, admittedly have not been amplified by the addition of unions reported as having since been formed. The descriptive tables show a total number of 161 labour organizations in British Columbia, the most prominent from the point of view of activity in organization being the transport