

over a valuable find in the tunnel, which will help materially to pay expenses for some time. It is the advent of the two railways that will help that district immensely, and the Great Northern is clearing part of the town of Ferguson for the purpose of building its shops there. The C.P.R., also, is coming in the same direction, and is said to have acquired a large portion of Selkirk City, at the foot of Trout Lake, for their purposes; but not for the terminus. Altogether, Lardeau is looking exceedingly well, but like other camps, needs more capital. At Albert Canyon, or rather some miles from there, the Tangier is working with about twenty men, and more are wanted, but nothing particular is being done with the Wonderful Waverley. There seems to be, however, no doubt at all that the Lanark is going to work again. In the Big Bend, very satisfactory results are still being obtained from the placer diggings on Smith Creek, which are now quite extensive, and are still being extended. The Carnes Creek Company are busy working and intend to keep busy all the winter, a sufficiency of supplies has been sent up, and the necessary cabins are being built. The ore here (Rosebery group) is highly arsenical pyrites, and carries very good value in gold; but just lately the ore seems to be changing and becoming much more copper bearing than hitherto with much increased silver values. It will be very interesting to see what a large vein of arsenical iron at the surface will become when greater depth is attained: if it becomes a copper vein (for which there seems no chemical reason, but we are in B.C.!), it will form a very nice precedent for future mining engineers to base their reports and probabilities upon.

The Boston and B.C. Company are now doing what they should have done before issuing that marvellous prospectus, preparing to develop their claims. An ample quantity of supplies for the winter is now being & B.C. CO. daily "pack-trained" up to the Standard basin, and all arrangements are being made to keep at least ten men working all through the winter. This much delayed, but right and proper work seems to be the outcome of an examination made lately by a New York expert, Mr. Von Rosenberg, who was up there very recently, and considers the surface showing very good indeed and well worth further outlay for development. After a winter's work we surely ought to know something more definite about this much-talked-of property; the property itself being possibly all right, but the description of it very much too romantic. Meanwhile, we may well suspend our judgment on the matter till further work has been done, as it should have been long since. It is very interesting to those who have ore to sell, to notice that zinc is no longer anything like the trouble it used to be at the smelters; no doubt many firms do still make an extra charge for each 1 per cent of zinc over a certain amount, but it seems very certain now that zinc may shortly even be paid for if in sufficient quantity, whether it be made into commercial spelter or not. From accounts recently published, a certain Dr. F. L. Bartlett has succeeded in saving the zinc in ores in the form of oxide (which is used very largely in paint as "zinc white"), and at the same time saving the silver and gold values. If this process is found to be practical, it will mean a great deal to those who have hitherto been "fined" for having too much zinc, and further details of results actually obtained will be looked for with much interest.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions which may be expressed in this column. No notice will be taken of communications unless accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.*

## THE SLOCAN STAR AND MINERS' UNION.

TO THE EDITOR:—In reference to the communication of W. L. Hayles in your August number, I quoted in my former letter my authority, one which I consider unimpeachable. As some time had elapsed between the date at which the circumstances were related to me and that at which my letter was written, I may have got wrong in regard to some details, but the essential facts were told me as I wrote them. The expression that the Star Mine was on the "bad books" of the union, was a figure of speech, meaning no more than that its management had not complied with the demands of the union.

Yours faithfully,

Slocan, Sept. 13, 1899.

D. X. Y.

## PUBLICATIONS.

THE Mineral Industry, Its Statistics, Technology and Trade, in the United States and other countries, to the end of 1898. Edited by R. P. Rothwell. Vol. VII. The Scientific Publishing Co., New York. Price \$5.00.

The present volume of this well-known work fully sustains the enviable reputation earned by previous annuals for reliability, completeness and general excellence. Practically in all parts of the world the "Mineral Industry" has come to be regarded as the standard authority on mining and technical progress and industrial conditions relating thereto; and it is an accepted fact that the statistical information contained in these volumes not infrequently appears well in advance of Governmental Blue-books of official returns.

Among the specialists who have contributed articles to Volume VII. are included men of world-wide reputation as writers on technical subjects, and several of these monographs are entitled to rank as classics in their particular departments. Of the many important papers in this volume that on ammonia, and the manufacture of ammonian sulphate from gas liquor occupies a most prominent place. Here the important modern technical produce "calcium carbide" is described, and the latest methods of manufacture explained in detail. The most economical kinds of furnaces for this industry are indicated, and complete information is furnished with reference to preparation of the crude materials, as well as for the storage and transportation of the finished product.

A very interesting article is that on hydraulic cement, which, with the articles in Vols. V. and VI., form a complete text-book on this subject.

In the chapter on "Clay" there are numerous valuable hints to those engaged in the manufacture of brick, terra-cotta, sewer pipe, drain tiles, stoneware, etc. In this chapter, also, the manufacture of fire-brick is treated of, as well as the paving-brick industry and the uses of kladin.

Over forty pages are devoted to coal and coke, and a monograph on coal mining methods and their economical bearing forms a most practical contribution to modern literature on this subject.

The coals of the Canadian Northwest and the Rocky Mountains, by W. G. M. Dawson, is of much importance and interest.

At the present time when the metal copper has be-