

FRENCH'S PROCESS FOR REDUCTION OF ZINC-LEAD ORES.

The "Daily Colonist," published at Victoria, British Columbia, on September 12, printed the following:

The Provincial Government has decided to extend a measure of financial assistance to a mining project which promises to exert an important influence upon the problem of zinc production in British Columbia, and which will, as an immediate development, have the effect of placing in operation at Nelson a demonstration plant.

This announcement is made by Sir Richard McBride, Premier and Minister of Mines, who explained that for some time the Government has had under consideration representations made by the French Complex Ore Reduction Company, Ltd., of Victoria, the chairman of which is Mr. Albert F. Griffiths. The company, which has obtained the patent rights of the French process for the electrolytic deposition of zinc, has made successful experiments with small plants for the past five years, and believes the time has arrived when steps should be taken to demonstrate the commercial possibilities.

Evidence placed before the Government, said Sir Richard, tended to show that the process can be successfully employed on a large scale in the treatment of zinc-bearing ores and after investigation by officers of the Mines Department, it has been decided to assist the company in completing its financial arrangements so that a demonstration plant of some practical usefulness may be established at Nelson. Beside this measure of assistance the Government will lease to the company on favorable terms the old Fairview plant at Nelson, which reverted to the Province some time ago, after it had been abandoned by those who were operating it.

Mr. Griffiths explained last evening that the company was hopeful, as a result of the action of the Government, of being able to make such financial arrangements as would enable it to almost immediately commence putting the Fairview plant at Nelson in order for the demonstration work. It is planned to put in two units, of one-ton capacity each.

Mr. Thomas French, who will superintend the erection of the plant, is at present in the city, and plans to leave for Nelson shortly to survey the Fairview plant. He has no misgivings about the practicability of the project, numerous experiments on a small scale having removed every vestige of doubt on this point. It was Mr. French's father, Mr. Andrew Gordon French, who invented the process for the electrolytic treatment of zinc ores. The latter died only a few weeks ago in Glasgow.

Sir Richard McBride said that the Government was moved to extend a measure of aid to the company at this time in view of the possibility of encouraging the greater production of zinc in British Columbia, a matter of vital concern just now to the Imperial Government, in view of the use of zinc in the manufacture of munitions of war.

GRANBY CONSOLIDATED CO.'S OPERATIONS

The "Spokesman-Review" on September 12, published the following interview with Mr. F. M. Sylvester, general manager for the Granby Consolidated M. S. and P. Co.: "Both plants of the Granby

Co. are running at full capacity and together turning out copper at the rate of 3,500,000 lb. a month, or 42,000,000 lb. a year. The smeltery at Grand Forks has eight furnaces in operation, treating 100,000 tons of ore monthly. At the smeltery at Anyox the fourth furnace was blown in about August 15. The quantity of ore treated there averaged 62,500 tons a month for May, June and July; in August about 75,000 tons was smelted. The working force at Anyox, where there is still construction work in progress, numbers between 850 and 900 men.

"About a year ago the Granby Co. added to its holdings the Bonanza mine, near Granby bay, but as we do not at present need its ore we have not yet put it in shape for producing. We also acquired some mines on Prince of Wales island: these were supposed to have been worked out, but we have been taking some ore from them, chiefly from the Mamie, worked at one time by Sam Silverman. We have developed the Midas mine at Valdez, Alaska, to the shipping stage, but owing to a scarcity of vessels we have not yet been able to ship ore thence to Anyox, and we may yet have to buy our own steamer for this purpose.

"To the best of our ability we are encouraging mine-owners in Northern British Columbia and Alaska to ship their ore to Anyox, but as yet we have not received much custom ore. The only shipper on a comparatively considerable scale has been the Rocher Deboile mine, near Hazelton, B. C., from which during the last two months we have received about 6,000 tons of copper ore."

A ONE-MAN POWER DRILL.

A new type of powerful coal drill has been recently developed and placed on the market by the Jeffrey Mfg. Co., of Columbus, Ohio, builders of coal mine and tippie equipment.

The motor and drill mechanism proper are mounted on trunnions in a carriage, which may be raised or lowered in a vertical channel-iron frame by means of a 3-8 in. steel rope. One end of this rope is fastened to the top yoke of the frame and the other end to a drum on the carriage. This drum is rotated by a handle to wind up the rope and to raise the carriage. A ratchet and pawl are provided on the drum to prevent the carriage from dropping when the handle is released.

When it is desired to move the drill from one place to another, the carriage carrying the motor and mechanism is lowered to the bottom of the frame and the drill rolled along on the wheels provided on the bottom cross-yoke, in a manner similar to an ordinary hand freight truck.

The motor of this drill is rated at 3 h.p. The total weight of the drill is approximately 300 lb. It is made sufficiently rugged and powerful to drill through any material against which the auger will stand up.

With the means employed on this drill for raising and lowering and with the wheels provided for moving it from place to place, only one man is required to move, set up, adjust and operate the machine.

Full particulars regarding this drill can be obtained by writing to the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company, Power Building, Montreal.