

Under the present management the affairs of the Le Roi have been placed on a basis that is in strong and favourable contrast to that previously existing. Save for the customary advance against matte in transit, common to most companies operating smelters, the Le Roi Company is out of debt and, as a result of economies and reductions in costs at both mine and smelter, it is earning substantial profits, while the mine is looking well from an ore production point of view. Yet for those who have laboured hard and successfully to bring about this great improvement in the position of the company there is much abuse in the press. Truly this is a strange world, my masters.

The Britannia Smelting Co., Ltd., which has acquired the smelting works established at Crofton, Vancouver Island, in 1902 by the Northwestern Smelting & Refining Co., announces in our advertising columns that on and after July 1, prox., shipments of ore will be received at its works for reduction. Several weeks ago an arrangement was made with the Britannia Copper Syndicate for the smelting at these works of the whole of the output of the Britannia mine, at Howe Sound. It is understood that production will shortly commence at that mine, and that the Crofton smelter will obtain its main supply of ore from it, adding whatever custom ores shall be obtainable.

One who is described as "an esteemed correspondent," writes the *Canadian Mining Review* that at the Le Roi mine "McMillan, it is believed, is 'gutting' ore bodies, and economizing on development, in order to make a showing which will be acceptable to shareholders who are not qualified to fully appreciate the position of affairs." Then the *Nelson Tribune* quotes the *Review* as having openly declared that McMillan has been gutting the mine, etc. Of course, it is too much to ask the *Review* to disclose where its "esteemed correspondent" writes from, but would it not be a singular coincidence if it happened to be from Nelson? It is wrong to make insinuations, but such strategem is not beyond belief.

The appeal of Mr. F. R. Blochberger, of Portland, for samples of British Columbia minerals, for exhibition at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, made through the press, is one that in our opinion should not be responded to. It comes late, and is not likely to result in a creditable exhibition being made. It has been well known for some time past that no mineral exhibit from British Columbia was being prepared, and this Mr. Blochberger might have ascertained weeks ago. It is altogether unlikely a representative exhibit can be got together in the manner proposed, so it would be better to have none at all than one that would probably represent only a few claims and those chiefly for advertising purposes.

In its May number the *Canadian Mining Review* stated, in connection with the recent amalgamation meeting at Winnipeg, that copies of Mr. Brock's re-

port had already been sent out of the country by Mr. McMillan before they could be discussed by the representatives of the various interests, and that this caused a great deal of embarrassment. We hardly think the *Review* knowingly suppressed the fact that such copies were sent only to the Le Roi Mining Co. directors, in response to a cabled request from England for them. Surely all the directors of the Le Roi had a right to see Mr. Brock's report—if not, why not? A half truth can be made to assume a very different complexion to that of a full statement of fact.

Recently the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, New York, in an editorial on "Mining Activity," reviewed the immediate outlook for mining on the North American continent. Its reference to British Columbia was as follows: "In British Columbia there is coincident progress. While the conditions underlying the mining of silver-lead ores remain discouraging, the copper industry is highly prosperous, and with it the winning of gold and silver. In the Boundary district, there is a series of low-grade deposits of such dimensions as to afford the basis for the soundest kind of speculation; indeed it is likely that the Granby Company and its affiliated interests will shortly expand into an undertaking of a magnitude excelled by but few mining and smelting enterprises on this continent."

The attention of managers of British and American companies operating in the Kootenays is called to a small but useful sketch map, Mr. W. H. Jones, printer, of Nelson, prints on his letter heads. Though small, this map gives a good idea of the relative positions of the more important of the towns in the mining sections of East Kootenay, West Kootenay, and the Boundary, and, as well, shows lines of railway and steamer travel. As an advertisement for south-eastern British Columbia it is effective, and its use by outside mining companies, as above suggested, might serve to in some measure enlighten their shareholders as to the geography of the country in which they have more or less interest. If such a desirable end be furthered by this notice we shall not mind having given the printer named an unsolicited advertisement "on the side."

We give in this issue some particulars of the Vancouver Island Mining & Development Co., which lately completed the purchase of a large group of mineral claims situated in the Mt. Sicker district. The capital of this company is moderate; there have not been any promotion profits paid to promoters, all the property having been obtained by the company at actual cost to its organisers; and the company has done considerable development work, with the result that the management has an intelligent idea of the worth of the claims finally acquired. The shareholders, therefore stand on terms of equality, proportionate to their respective holdings, in an enterprise that gives reasonable promise of eventual success, the in-