

authorities at Ottawa may easily be held by the world at large to imply an undesirable dependence of Canada on the capacity and good will of the United States. Too many already think that Canada can hardly take any step that directly or indirectly affects the United States and their interests without first saying, "By your leave." If, as is certain, the Americans resident of Dawson need relief, this had surely better be sent under Canadian convoy than in the charge of a semi-military cortege from the States. The whole thing surely implies a more than half conviction on the part of the United States, and, if accepted, an admission by Canada, that the Dominion is unable to fulfil one of the great duties of a great self-governing state, namely, the protection of the lives of those lawfully resident within its borders.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is said that those connected with the Vancouver ore smelter proposal have now bought a 20-acre site for a smelter at Nakusp. The people of that place should not, however, on that account rejoice—prematurely. Almost the patience of Job is needed by those who expect smelter performance to result from smelter promises of these very tardy gentlemen, who have effectively dampened the ardor of Vancouver's people in regard to municipal encouragement of smelter enterprise "all in the air."

An article in our last issue concerning the sale to Mr. John Cobeldick of a considerable area of north coast land, previously included in the British Pacific Reserve, has elicited a partly satisfactory reply from the Department of Lands and Works. Mr. Cobeldick required, it seems, most of the area for wharfage and other accommodation necessary for the shipping of ore from and conveyance of supplies to certain neighboring copper-gold claims of his. He got also the assent of those interested in the notorious British Pacific project. Others are, however, interested in the same district, and may easily require like facilities.

West Kootenay's ore and matte shipments to date, without including the value of some of the ore consignments recently made by Nakusp, reach for 1897 the goodly approximate worth of \$7,708,000, or at least twice the worth of the frozen Yukon's yield for the same period. Now, as in the future, the Kootenays will in all respects compare favorably with the Yukon country. Yet the latter will doubtless, for a very short period, attract foolish men with tenfold the magnetic force of the Kootenays.

The chances of the passing by Vancouver's citizens of the proposed C. P. R. tax exemption by-law are, it is to be feared, not improved by the peremptory note sounded on behalf of the company

and declaring that in the event of the whole of Sir William Van Horne's demand not being conceded, the proposal to erect the fine new terminal buildings will be abandoned. The case for the company might well have been put in the more conciliatory fashion of the diplomatist. Fortunately the wharfage extensions, needed by a rapidly increasing Yukon and general ocean traffic, will in any case be made promptly by the great Canadian railroad company, to the lasting benefit of itself and the city of Vancouver.

#### NO DATA YET--PLENTY SOON.

The Canadian accident and life insurance companies have united to refuse Yukon traveling and settlement risks. They have yet no data whereon to base tables of mortality and bad accident risk. In a twelvemonth or less data only too ample seem likely to be forthcoming, and such risks will be taken—but beyond the limits of a few town settlements—at no doubt high premiums, for tenderfeet especially. There won't, however, be many tenderfeet nor remittance men left in the Yukon six months after the first rush of next season. Such of that ilk as can, will by then have got out or got or gone under, the getters-out strongly expressing, no doubt, a personal preference for Hades so far as they are concerned. Thousands of tenderfeet mean, nevertheless, to make for the Yukon next spring, and if that far northern land only rids England and British Columbia, if but for a while, of the presence of big contingents of "remittance men," the Klondike will, apart from the gold it is to ship, not have been found wholly in vain.

#### ANOTHER KOOTENAY CITY.

It is now stated that Sandon, the Slocan's busy mining center, will immediately seek incorporation as a city, and hold its first municipal election in January. The change is doubtless needed in the interest of effective local administration. The government of urban areas in the Kootenays from Victoria by means of a single government agent, aided sometimes by a police officer, is by no means satisfactory, less so even as a rule, than not very capable local municipal administration, although it embodies to some extent the plan about which the Province continuously dogmatized, viz., local government by paid commissioners, nominated, not elected.

#### AN APPROVING NOTE.

The Golden Era says: "The B. C. MINING CRITIC, published at Vancouver, has recently had some able articles exposing some of the more "shady" flotations in London of British Columbia mining properties."