

Labour unionism, as represented by the Western Federation of Miners must necessarily suffer by the recent dastardly outrage committed, it is alleged, by members of that labour institution at Circle City, Colorado, by which a number of non-union workmen were killed by the explosion of dynamite. Although the Western Federation deny any complicity in this atrocious deed and have offered a large reward for the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators, until proof positive is brought forward the public in general will certainly refuse to believe in the innocence of the organization whose past record is marked with deeds of violence and bloodshed. Without going into the question of the rights and wrongs of the dispute now of long standing between mine-owners and the union miners in Colorado, it is very clear that the latter have not had the support of the Colorado public in the struggle that has been in progress. As a general rule the justice of a cause on the one side or the other may be learned by this criterium. In a sense, it is an added matter for regret that a large proportion of our British Columbian miners' unions are affiliated with a body whose motto seems to spell anarchy, although in justice it must be said that so far the influence of the Western Federation in this country has been for good, instead of otherwise, to the prevention and settlement of strikes rather than the encouragement or promotion thereof. The time perhaps is not too far distant when labour will not be required to organize for its own protection. The Western Federation of Miners is, it is said, governed by men who, as avowed socialists, disbelieve in unionism, holding to it merely as a temporary expedient. But moral force nowadays is more powerful than brute force, and socialism, or any other cause, however inherently righteous is not likely to be advanced by the advocacy of murderers and madmen.

A telegram despatched from Ottawa early in the month and given wide publicity, stated that the Federal Parliament had acceded to the wishes of the British Columbia lead producers, and extended the benefits conferred by the Lead Bounty Act to permit of the exportation of the lower grade ores. This now appears to have been misleading, the announcement having been, to say the least, premature. Both in the House of Commons and in the Senate there is strong opposition to the suggested change, on the grounds that it would largely defeat one of the principal objects of the Act itself which was to encourage and stimulate the smelting of lead ores at home. At the same time pressure is being brought to bear on Parliament by men who possess strong political influence and hence there is a fair chance that the amendments will be made. The suggested arrangement is after all merely in the nature of a compromise to cover a period only of one year and thus give the local smelters an opportunity of increasing the capacity or otherwise improving the efficiency of their plants to be able to adequately handle the entire British Columbian lead-ore output, while, too, it is merely desired that the

surplus of the bounty offered, after mine-owners who have complied with the present requirements of the Act, shall have been paid, be made available to producers of the lower-grade ores, who under the rather exceptional conditions now existing, are unable, without this encouragement, to carry on operations upon a reasonably profitable basis. As the British Columbian smelters have themselves endorsed the petition there would seem to be no economic reason why it should be refused. On the other hand, the extension of bounty privileges would undoubtedly result in a greatly increased silver-lead production this year, the working of a number of mines now idle; the consequent employment of labour, and the stimulation generally of trade and industrial conditions in the Kootenays.

The information relative to the Mineral Museum of the Provincial Department of Mines we publish elsewhere in this issue of the MINING RECORD will, we hope, be widely read and serve to so interest in that institution a large number of our readers as to induce them to make use of its advantages whenever practicable and, by contributing specimens of minerals, rocks, etc., to assist in extending its sphere of usefulness. It is not characteristic of the Department of Mines to blow its own horn, which it might justly do in regard to the practical benefits derived by many from the Mineral Museum as well as from the Provincial Assay Office, both supervised by Mr. Herbert Carmichael, Provincial Assayer. Comparatively few of the general public have any idea of the number of those who make use of the Museum by spending an occasional hour there making themselves familiar with the appearance and general character of rocks and minerals previously strange to them, and thus better fitting themselves for determining whether or not the specimens they find when traveling or prospecting are likely to be worth giving attention to. Further, as a means of advertising the varied mineral resources of the Province the Mineral Museum is effective. That this is so does not appear to be recognized in some of the mining sections of the Province. Many districts are well represented, among them some of those in which the Provincial Mineralogist has spent a week or two, or in which some resident has taken the trouble to collect and forward representative specimens. Among those that are either poorly represented, or not at all, are Omineca, Cariboo, Lillooet, Fish River and other parts of the Lardeau, Arrow Lake and Ymir. The absence of a good display from the last-named camp is surprising, since its exhibit at Nelson and Spokane fairs last year was one of unusual excellence. It is to be hoped that this reminder will have the effect of securing from the several sections mentioned a representative collection of their respective ores and typical rocks, so that the Museum of the Department of Mines may the better serve its purpose.

When the organization of the Bureau of Mines, in accordance with the "Bureau of Mines Act", Chap