

since successive Provincial Governments commenced to spend money in constructing the 30 to 35 miles of extension of road necessary to give the promising mining section around Beaverdell and Carmi road connection with the existing road from Midway to a few miles above Rock Creek, the district remained isolated, for the reason that the roadmaking work was not completed and consequently transportation facilities were not provided. However, it is stated that the road really is to be completed this season, and that as a result several high-grade silver properties, already developed to a shipping point, will be placed in a position that will admit of their sending out sorted ore to the smelter, notwithstanding the heavy cost of the wagon haul. If this be true those directly interested are to be congratulated, for their patience has been sorely tried by the long waiting they have had to endure.

The State of Colorado now has a code of mine-bell signals similar in principle to that adopted by the Legislature of British Columbia in 1901. The Provincial Department of Mines based its code upon that long in satisfactory use in the State of Montana, but improving upon it in one or two important particulars, and this code the Legislature made the law of the Province. One of the leading features of the British Columbia mine-bell code is the "caution signal" of three bells when men are about to get on the cage or skip. This is simply a caution to the engineer, who has to wait for the following signal to hoist or lower, as the case may be, before doing either the one or the other. It is gratifying to find that the Colorado State Commissioner of Mines has included this caution signal in the bell-code issued by him under the authority vested in him by law. Further, it is especially satisfactory that such a prominent mining State as Colorado has joined the movement towards the adoption of an uniform code of mine-bell signals, since it is equally necessary that there shall be uniformity in mines as in steam vessels, the bell signals of which are the same in all countries using steamers to any considerable extent. Prominent mining journals published in the United States advocate the adoption of a similar code throughout those mining States that are not yet in accord with this movement, especially the Western States, and suggest the desirability of their doing their part towards making the code uniform. Whether their suggestion be adopted or not, British Columbia miners enjoy the protection of a bell-code that is in general, if not universal use in the West, for the codes of Montana, California and Colorado—all prominent mining States—are essentially the same in their more important features, which is a distinct advance towards uniformity. In this particular our own Department of Mines is well abreast of the times.

The memorial addressed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce by the Silver-Lead Mines Association, urging that the surplus, if any, of the appropriation

voted under the Lead Bounty Act, be distributed until June 30th, 1905, among producers of lead ore, who find it advantageous, under present rather unusual conditions to export their ores for treatment and marketing, has received the endorsement of the Kootenay Boards of Trade, while, too, the local smelters have expressed their approval of the suggestion. At first glance we confess, the proposal did not appear to us to be in the best interests of the country, for certainly the most satisfactory clause in the Bounty Act was that providing for the treatment by local reduction works of the mine products, the result of which would, of course, be the stimulation and upbuilding of the lead smelting industry in British Columbia. There are, however, special reasons why at this particular juncture the provision in question should not be too rigidly enforced. As the memorial states, the effect of the granting of the bounty on lead has already become very noticeable in the increased mine development and activity which has since taken place; and production is now about to commence on a scale which, with the facilities at present provided, the Canadian smelters would be unable to treat on an economical basis, the local reduction works being, it is claimed, unable to make a sufficiently low charge for treatment and marketing ore concentrates of a certain class produced from a low-grade ore to encourage the development and operation of mines of this character. The suggested arrangement is therefore, merely of a temporary nature to induce and enable mines—notably the St. Eugene, at Moyie—producing the lower grade ores, to become immediately productive, instead of being obliged to wait until the local smelters had improved their facilities for handling the ore. It is hoped meanwhile, before the expiration of the term specified, that the capacity of the Trail refining works will be greatly increased, and that arrangements will have been made for corroding lead in this country, so that there will be a better average market for lead ores in Canada.

The report has been received from England of the judgment of the presiding judge in a case in the Chancery Division which had relation to the British America Corporation, Ltd., the company that purchased for \$3,000,000 the Le Roi mining property at Rossland, and afterwards sold it to the Le Roi Company at a higher price. In this case the plaintiff, Mr. R. M. Stevens, who subscribed for 1,000 shares on the flotation of the British America Corporation, sued Mr. E. A. Hoare, who for a few months was a director of the corporation, to recover damages for having been induced to apply for the shares by reason, as he alleged, of the misrepresentations contained in the prospectus. The action was singular in that it served to show that the defendant was entirely blameless in the matter and that the plaintiff had seemingly been made use of by others in bringing it. In the course of his judgment His Lordship Mr. Justice Joyce, said that this "was not an action of deceit or for fraudulent misrepresentation. No actual fraud or intention to deceive was, or could be,