

the products from at least two other of its Rossland mines, the company should be in a position if not at present to pay dividends, to at least continue its exploratory operations and developments without drawing further from its capital account for this purpose.

Dr. Crookes, F.R.S., whom Dr. Emmens cited as one that could give corroborative evidence in support of his claim of ability to convert silver ore into gold, has written to the English mining journals, accusing the American scientist of discourtesy in publishing private letters of his, Dr. Crookes', and of doing what is worse, namely, garbling such letters by omitting important qualifying points from them when so published. Dr. Crookes has tested Dr. Emmens' alleged discovery, but after many abortive trials of the latter's process, has wholly failed to convert any silver thus tested, into gold. The celebrated English scientist therefore wholly discredits Dr. Emmens' theory, that gold and silver are two variants of a changeable metal, which the American experimenter calls "argentan-rum." There is consequently, as yet, no sufficient grounds for belief that Dr. Emmens has, by a wonderful discovery of a new element, capable of assuming the form, either of gold or silver under different circumstances of production, solved the world perplexing silver question. Dr. Crookes evidently thinks that Dr. Emmens has a "bee in his bonnet."

As was to be expected, Mr. Taggart's paper, the *Mining Critic*, takes great exception to the remarks we considered it to be our duty to make last month in reference to the so-called British Columbia Chamber of Mines, and to do the *Critic's* able editor justice, in his reply to what he stigmatizes as the MINING RECORD's "apparently inspired venomous attack," he makes the most of an undeniably weak case, by some clever special pleading, wherein he warily refuses to come to the point. The fact is that the RECORD's position is quite unassailable, and no one is better aware of the fact than Mr. Taggart and his editor. However, we do not see that anything is to be gained by entering into a controversy with the *Mining Critic* on the subject of the Chamber of Mines' right to be considered a popular and representative institution, and we do not propose to do so. If proper steps are taken—and we submit that up to the present time this has not been done—to place the Chamber on a useful basis, last month's criticism will have effected what was hoped from it, and we shall be the first to offer our congratulations and support to the promoters, Mr. Taggart included. The appointment of a permanent secretary, skilled in the compilation of mine statistics—one having had experience in the office of some existing and well established Chamber of Mines in preference—would be a move in the right direction. This, and the election of mining men of recognized standing and unimpeachable reputation from each district and section of the province, to undertake executive work, would speedily place the Chamber in the position it is anxious to occupy, and win for it the recognition and respect of the mining community—a consummation, let us say, devoutly to be wished.

Meanwhile, we are glad to learn that Mr. Howard West, A.R.S.M., Secretary of an older established society, the British Columbia Mining Institute, is working assiduously in order to bring about a successful summer meeting of the Association. The Secretary

hopes to be able to arrange as a special feature of the proceedings in connection with the reading of interesting papers contributed by members, excursions to the principal mines for those attending. Nothing yet has been definitely settled with regard to the carrying out of the programme, but we hope to be able to give fuller particulars next month.

The mining community of the province will, we think, join with us in congratulating the Government upon securing the services of so well qualified a man as Mr. W. F. Robertson, of Montreal, as Provincial Mineralogist—the office until recently so ably filled by Mr. W. A. Carlyle, now superintendent of the British America Corporation at Rossland. Mr. Robertson comes highly recommended by Dr. Dawson, the head of the Geological Survey, and other prominent Eastern mining authorities. He is, moreover, like Mr. Carlyle, a graduate of McGill College, and also, like his predecessor, gained an extensive practical experience in the United States. The Minister of Mines, Col. Baker, left Victoria on the 27th of the month, to meet Mr. Robertson, who will at once commence active work in the field.

It is to be hoped that the Postmaster-General will take immediate steps to provide Omineca with a mail service this season. Last summer the miners and prospectors in this district were obliged to depend upon the arrival and departure of occasional pack trains for postal facilities, and it is hardly necessary to point out that this state of affairs proved anything but satisfactory. Already a large number of prospectors have gone into Omineca this spring, and from all accounts the season will be a particularly active one; hence the requirements in the matter of adequate mail facilities will be the more urgent. The Hudson Bay Company have a line of small steamboats on the Skeena, and a monthly mail service to Hazelton could therefore be supplied at no very great expense to the Department.

Some months ago, when Mr. Ogilvie left Canada to lecture in England on the subject of the Yukon gold fields, we ventured to express the opinion that his mission thither would not be productive of the best results; that promoters of wild-cat schemes would take undue advantage of his utterances; that the Klondike had then been sufficiently boomed, and perhaps over-rated in Great Britain. and, finally, that it was questionable whether Mr. Ogilvie could give the British public any fuller information about this new El Dorado than had been already furnished them through the published reports in the English press of his Canadian lectures. Events have since proved that this view was, generally speaking, correct. In the prospectus of more than one recent promotion of shady appearance, unwarrantable use has been made of Mr. Ogilvie's sayings, and a notable instance is afforded in the case of the concern entitled the Klondike Gold Fields Limited. This Company propose to acquire four claims on Bonanza Creek,—“the gold in which is estimated to be worth \$28,000,000”—and ground on Eldorado. The prospectus quotes a statement of Mr. Ogilvie's with regard to the richness of Eldorado claim No. 5 to prove the value of Eldorado Bench claim No 5—a rather different pair of shoes, as Mr. Ogilvie in a letter to the *Times* points out. In fact Mr. Ogilvie has had lately thrust upon him a tremendous amount of work of this nature, and as the