

capacity than available Coast and Gulf Island mines and claims can supply with ore, since at present these do not in the aggregate put forth on an average per day more than a fraction of 300 tons of ore, and it is also certain that the proposed smelter to be established up country in connection with the C.P.R. will absorb most of the available supply of suitable Kootenay ore. This is true as things stand. But so great are in our opinion the gradually developing mineral resources of Alberni and certain other Vancouver Island points, of Texada Island, of the North Coast, of the Harrison and Pitt Lake districts, and some points quite near to Vancouver, that these will, cheap and convenient smelter facilities being afforded on Vancouver's water front, surely increase their present yields enormously in the course of a twelve-month or which time it is unlikely that the proposed smelter will be got into full working order. And we suppose that even if a daily quota of half the extreme weekly capacity of the smelter were available in copper-gold and silver-lead ores, the industry could with prudent management be successfully and profitably conducted. If this be so, it is surely not unreasonable to expect that probably nearly a score of Coast and Island mines that should before the end of 1898 prove fairly regular shippers, will together supply a weekly quota of from 1000 to 1200 tons to a Vancouver smelter. Hence, all things considered, provided that the proposed company be formed on straight and businesslike lines, under a capable and well informed directorate including skilled metallurgists, we deem legitimate and well advised the proposed moderate participation of the City of Vancouver in an industrial development of almost vital importance to our Coast and the fair and productive isles adjacent. A strong smelter company capitalised as proposed in £250,000, of which most should represent cash or cash liability, ought to do great things for this section of the Province.

THE POPULAR HARRY.

Harry Lindley and his comedy company are here, and those who doubt it have only to visit Dunn Hall but once to prove it. He is playing to full houses every evening, and to obtain seats it is necessary to be on deck on time sharp. The name of Harry Lindley is too well known in the East to require more than a mere mention that he is holding forth in Vancouver to draw big houses. Notwithstanding that other attractions have been on The Harry Lindley Comedy Company have been greeted by crowded houses each evening, and many people who have not been in the habit of attending shows for years have availed themselves of this opportunity of having a good laugh and an evening's genuine fun. Would it not be a good scheme for

the Council to make some proposal to keep the company here permanently, instead of granting a license to other more unworthy and incompetent parties. A move of this kind would certainly be in the right direction, and in the interest of the city, as well as an assurance to those who patronize such that they would get their money's worth, and no loss, and would, we are sure, meet with the approbation and good will of all our citizens.

THE LATEST DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

The last dividend paid by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, of Michigan, U. S. A., making its total distribution \$50,850,000, is worthy of special mention for the passing of the half-hundred mark in millions. The Consolidated California and Virginia, on the Comstock Lode, paid \$77,608,800, but besides this quondam possessor of the "Big Bonanza" there is no record of any mining company returning to its shareholders so much money as the Calumet & Hecla has done. In the United States, the Ontario has paid \$13,545,000, and the Granite Mountain \$12,120,000. There are no others with records of more than \$10,000,000. In Australia the Broken Hill Proprietary Company has a record of £6,992,000, or £8,736,000, including shares of subsidiary companies which have been distributed; and the Mount Morgan one of £4,400,000. The shareholders in El Callao, of Colombia, have received \$9,666,440. The Robinson, in South Africa, has paid £1,612,499 (up to the end of 1896), and the De Beers' diamond mines £8,194,143 since the consolidation, while several of the companies which entered this union had paid large dividends before it was effected. The Rio Tinto copper mines of Spain have yielded their present owners £5,757,500 (from 1878 to 1896, both years inclusive); how much the ancients got out of them we have no means of knowing.

In referring to the above mines as being the largest dividend payers, we do not lose sight of the great bonanzas of Mexico and South America—Guanajuato, Zacatecas, Pachuca, Cerro de Pasco, Potosi and many others—of which the production was huge and the profit must have been enormous. The Spanish king received a fifth of the product as his royalty, and the adventurers, many of them at least, became rich. But of all this we have no definite records. Nor have we of many other famous mines of which the exploitation began long ago, like the mines of Laurium and Almaden, or those of Harz and the Erzgebirge. Certain of these mines have been worked with fair continuity for nearly 900 years, and a small dividend per annum for many years may exceed a large one for a few years. The Calumet & Hecla, however, has had the good fortune to

pay a large dividend for a good many years already, and the end is not yet in sight—New York Engineering and Mining Journal.

TO THE POINT.

Quoth the Fort Steele Prospector, noting an oft stated abuse and apparently suggesting an apt remedy that will hold the hard working prospector harmless: "We observe that some of our contemporaries in West Kootenay have fallen in with Professor Carlyle's proposal that before a mineral location is allowed to be recorded \$100 worth of assessment work should be completed. The objection to this proposal is that it would discourage prospecting. The prospector is a most useful factor in the initial development of any mineral region; without his efforts progress must be very slow, and if all he does is to hunt up locations, he has done a service that is worthy of substantial reward. That he should have a year in which to try to induce some one else with more capital than he to go on and do the work, is not too much—it is indeed an encouragement that is in the highest degree worth the bestowal. The real objection to the system as it is now worked is that original locations are re-located from year to year by being changed from one free miner to another, with the object of avoiding the outlay or labor of assessment work. The intention of a very useful and proper provision of the mining law is thus defeated; a remedy should be applied. And the remedy is one found easily at hand. It is simply that of making assessment work a necessity before re-locations can be recorded."

ANOTHER GOLD-MINING MAYOR.

Seattle is about to lose the more or less valuable services of its Mayor, a Mr. Wood, now absent without formal leave in the Clondyke, and thus about to vacate his office. And now the rival Washington State City of Tacoma learns that on the expiry of his present term of office its Mayor, Mr. Fawcett, will also go gold mining in Canada, but not in the Clondyke. He will make, it is said, for new gold fields in the Edmonton district of Alberta.

ALIEN LABOR TROUBLE.

The Crow's Nest contractors under the C.P.R. at Godfrey's camp have had serious trouble with their Canadian employees as to the rate of wages involved under their contracts, and superseded large numbers of them by importing Italian cheap workers of a low type. The affair is most unfortunate and the C. P. R. should certainly see to a satisfactory righting of it, more especially as it would appear that there has been a breach of the Alien Labor Act.