

given publicity without question by the provincial press.

In this month's MINING RECORD will be found much information that has been taken from the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines for the year 1903. We have no doubt numbers of our readers will be glad to have this matter thus reprinted, for the MINING RECORD is read by many who will not see the official Report. Thanks to the courtesy of the Hon. the Minister of Mines, we have been enabled to use about half the blocks that served to illustrate his Report. The selected matter and the illustrations being both new to our readers we commend them to their careful attention, feeling assured that the result will be a more adequate conception of the enormous extent of the mineral resources of British Columbia and a fuller realization of the growing importance of its mining industry.

Although we gave prominence to the subject in the April issue of the MINING RECORD, its importance to this Province warrants our again directing attention to the value of the mineral production of British Columbia as compared with that of the whole of the Canadian territory situate to the eastward of the Rocky Mountains. The particular purpose of Tables 9 and 10, which have been published for several successive years in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines, is to exhibit the favourable position this Province occupies in this connection. So that not even a suggestion of a lack of complete fairness to other parts of the Dominion may appear, we have, in the mineral statistics published elsewhere in this issue, shown, first the totals of the production of metallic minerals in British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, and all other Provinces combined, respectively, and then have added the coal and coke production. Those interested in the detailed figures may examine them closely for themselves; we shall only briefly point out here the leading facts of the position. The total production in 1903 of gold, silver, copper and lead in the Dominion was valued at \$27,026,190. Of this British Columbia's proportion was \$12,631,787, the Yukon contributed (all in gold) \$12,250,000, and all other parts of the Dominion \$2,144,403. This means that the production of the Pacific slope portion of the Dominion of these four minerals was greater, to the amount of \$22,737,384, than that of all the remaining portion of Canada combined. The disparity, though still very large, is not so marked, however, after the production of other metallic minerals—iron, nickel and zinc—has been added, the Pacific slope showing a total production of all metallic minerals of \$24,888,657 as against \$8,818,746 for the remainder of Canada. Going further and adding the value of the coal and coke production, the Canadian territory east of the Rockies shows to less disadvantage, since it makes a gain of nearly \$9,000,000, as compared with that of British Columbia in its coal production, although the Western Province is a little to the good in coke. Still, with coal and coke added the balance is considerably

in favour of the Pacific slope, the respective totals being \$29,220,954 for British Columbia and the Yukon, and \$22,108,120 for the remainder of Canada. To give the other provinces their due it will be admitted that after all the numerous non-metallic mineral products and the structural materials and clay products, these being included in the total mineral production of Canada, have been taken into account the balance is not in favour of the Pacific slope, which has a total value of all mineral products of \$29,745,954 as against \$33,480,556 for the whole of the other portions of the Dominion. Yet this may be justly claimed, that this Province is distinctly in the lead in value of production of metallic minerals, and that since its iron and zinc resources are now receiving attention it may look to these assisting it in the future to maintain its advantage. Further, with coal and coke production promising a substantial increase, the prospects are that these products, as well as all the metallic minerals, will contribute a substantial increase to production and so aid in making British Columbia the "Mineral Province" of the Dominion to even a greater degree than already obtains.

As the option for the sale of the Lenora mine expired on May 20th, without so far as we are aware action being taken thereon, it is to be presumed that the "deal" which was being promoted in London has fallen through. We cannot help expressing the hope that such really is the case, for there are many other mines in British Columbia which in our opinion might be acquired to better advantage by British investors than the Lenora. Unfortunately we have little actual proof of the truth of the reports which have been circulated concerning the representations made by the promoters of the scheme in the endeavour to effect a sale, and consequently are unable to comment as we should have wished. We are informed, for example, that it was actually claimed for the Lenora, among other things, that there is now in sight at the mine over a hundred thousand tons of ore of payable grade. If such a statement were made it would be interesting to learn how the estimate was arrived at. The adjoining Tyee mine claims, we understand, only some sixty thousand tons of ore in sight. This mine has been carefully and systematically developed for about the same length of time as the Lenora has been carefully and systematically "guttled." To us the inference is obvious. Again some stress seems to have been laid on the circumstance that the sale of the property was sanctioned by the court. But it should be remembered that all the court was called upon to determine was whether the unsecured creditors would be placed in a worse position should the mine be sold, and as that was impossible, and on that account a majority of the unsecured creditors had voted in favour of the option being granted, the judge gave his approval. At the same time no affidavit was produced in court certifying to the value of the property. If the property is sold to British purchasers who have not the good sense to exercise ordinary business precautions before investing, then, of course, they deserve to suf-