

erties around Camborne, which is in the Fish river section of northern Lardeau, is the outlook promising. The Oyster-Criterion (also in charge of Mr. Gracey) bids fair to make a good showing this year; a new company has been formed to acquire and work the Camborne group; the Beatrice has ample funds for the enlarged development and production already arranged for; the Silver Dollar is putting in a small power plant and other equipment; the Mammoth is opening up well, with high-grade ore being taken out for shipment, and several other properties not so well known are also looking well as development proceeds. Steady progress from this on should be the general experience in Camborne camp.

The decision of the stockholders in the Spitzee Gold Mines, Ltd., to make the issued shares of that company assessable to the amount of \$1.50 each, and in this way to provide for calling up \$87,000 over a period of eighteen months or more, as shall be found advisable, is a practical demonstration of their confidence in the partly developed mine owned by their company. Shipments of ore to date have aggregated nearly 5,000 tons, of an average value of about \$12 per ton, and it was stated early this year that drifts on the 100 and 200-ft. levels together exposed some 30,000 tons of ore, so that there seems to be a comparatively large tonnage in sight. The company has been well managed, and has enjoyed a good reputation as a mining company, the *bona fides* of which were not open to question. We shall, consequently, have pleasure in seeing it meet the expectations of its stockholders by becoming a regular dividend-payer before the whole of the lately authorised additional capital shall have been called up.

For cheery optimism the *Prospector*—long the bright star of Fort Steele but eventually impelled, by the general removal of business to the growing neighbouring town of Cranbrook, to go with the crowd—is an example to newspapers, if there are any in the mining sections of the province, disposed to conclude that their districts are going to the bad. Recent evidence of the faith that is in him is the following hopeful comment of the editor of the *Prospector*:

"What South-east Kootenay now requires to place it in the front rank of mining districts is, first, capital; next, time and railway communication. It is gradually obtaining the latter. It is easy now to raise capital for any good South-east Kootenay enterprise, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. is pushing its roads right into the Kootenay. By this means the cost of transportation and treatment of ore will be reduced to such a level that not only high-grade properties, but low grade as well, will be put on a remunerative basis. We shall doubtless witness a great rise in the mineral output of South-east Kootenay in 1905 and 1906."

If newspaper reports may be believed, the usually uncommunicative manager of the companies owning the Nickel Plate group of mines, near Hedley, Simil-

kameen, and the 40-stamp mill at that town, has, at Rossland, been induced to talk for publication. Remembering the Nelson "fake" interview with Mr. A. J. McMillan, that that gentleman afterwards so unkindly yet most positively denied took place, it may not be safe to assume that Mr. Rodgers really was interviewed and actually did say what has been attributed to him in print. But if he did, then has he been most inconsiderate towards those who have been contradicting the *Mining Record* when it stated, and repeated, that general average values of Nickel Plate ore were \$12 to \$15 per ton. Now here is the gentleman who knows all about it again telling people that "the ore carries values from \$10 to \$15 to the ton." Really, Mr. Rodgers, you shouldn't. Don't you know that it's the custom in certain quarters to seize every opportunity to make it appear the *Mining Record* may not be relied upon? How could you do such a thing? Why, it's preposterous.

The visit to the big mines and the smelters of the Boundary district of Mr. J. Parke Channing, of New York, president of the Tennessee Copper Co., the metallurgical practice at whose important smelting works is noted from the fact that it is thoroughly modern, and economical to a degree reached in few other smelting establishments in America, is noteworthy. Having the benefit of the information and practical experience in the Boundary of Mr. J. E. McAllister, who prior to his appointment as manager of the B. C. Copper Co's smelter at Greenwood was assistant superintendent at the Tennessee Copper Co's works at Copperhill, Tennessee, U.S.A., the visiting engineer had peculiarly favourable opportunities to ascertain the practice followed and results achieved in the British Columbian district that has attracted widespread notice by its almost phenomenal success in metallurgy as required in the reduction of its ores. British Columbia cannot but be the gainer from the visits of men prominent in the mining and smelting world, particularly when made under conditions admitting of their arriving at the actual facts of smelting progress and results in the province.

At last the shipment of ore in quantity from the Britannia mine, Howe Sound, has been commenced. During nearly six years there have, from time to time, been published reports telling of the large quantity of ore occurring on the Britannia group, but no bulk shipments were made. Within the last two years the situation in regard to this very promising property has been greatly improved. Capital for the extensive development and ample equipment of the mines has been provided, and preparations for large production have at length made such progress, that shipment of ore in quantity, with little or no interruption, can now be proceeded with. The possession of an enormous quantity of ore, and of adequate facilities for mining, transporting, concentrating where necessary, and smelting, on a large scale, together with the high price for copper now ruling, should be an inducement to the Britannia Copper Syndicate to prosecute its big