

could be more absurd than the remark that in an undertaking like the Hall Mines a general manager is not required? Those familiar with enterprises of this nature know that a general manager's position is not only essential to ensure success, but it is also a very difficult post to fill. At a mine operated in conjunction with its own smelters, it is natural for the mine-manager, in order to keep up his output and reduce the cost per ton, to send ore so low in value to the smelter that it is not worth smelting. On the other hand, the manager of the smelter not infrequently will attempt to make a better showing for his department by purposely omitting to give the ore he receives full credit for the values it contains. It is, therefore, one of the functions of the general-manager to check both the mine and smelter returns, and do this properly he should have a regular technical training, and not be merely an accountant as is the case at Nelson. As to the other suggestions, we have already dealt with the question of the mine employees, and the others are of minor importance, although we should imagine the mine superintendent at the Hall Mines could occupy his time to better advantage than in keeping accounts, which are not so trifling as one would be led to expect.

In only one respect is the *Critic* writer's criticism just, and that is in reference to the mistake made in installing the costly and unwieldy Hillidie tramway system. Had either the Otto or Bleichert systems been adopted the ore could have been conveyed from the Silver King mine to the smelter for twenty cents or less per ton, or one-half of the present cost. It is well worth considering whether even now economy would not be served by substituting the present tramway by one that could be more easily and economically operated.

During the recent session of the Provincial Legislature, Mr. Helgesen, the senior member for the Cariboo

LABOUR	Electoral District, took the opportunity of drawing the attention of the
CONDITIONS	House to the employment of large
IN	numbers of both Chinese and Japanese
CARIBOO.	mine workers by the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Co.,

Limited, contrary to the terms under which that company received its charter. Mr. Helgesen both as a candidate for political honours and as a member of Parliament, has appeared as a strong advocate of radical measures for the exclusion of the Mongolian altogether from the labour market of the Province, and of thus effectively protecting the white worker against unfair competition from this quarter. It is to be presumed that Mr. Helgesen, in taking up the position he has upon this question, voices the sentiment of a majority of his constituents, but it may, nevertheless, be not altogether unprofitable to discuss the labour conditions obtaining at the present time in the Cariboo district for the purpose of discovering why Chinese or Japanese are employed in the mines of that section of the country in preference to white labourers. As, of course, is well known, mining in Cariboo, to-day, is on a very different basis to what it was twenty or thirty years ago. The day of the individual miner has passed, giving place to a time when enterprise to be profitable must be conducted on a large scale, necessitating heavy expenditures and the outlay of capital upon which for a period, probably extending over several years, no adequate, if any, return may be expected.

This is the position of affairs at most of the big hydraulic mines in Cariboo, including the properties operated by the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company. For the last few years operations in this district have been almost wholly confined to work of a preparatory character, such as the construction of flumes and ditches, the installation of machinery, and the equipment generally of the mines before actual mining could be successfully attempted. Under these circumstances it will be readily admitted that it was of the utmost importance that these preparatory undertakings should be both as economically and expeditiously completed as conditions permitted. In Cariboo there were two classes of labour from which mine owners could draw. One, the worst type of whites, a large majority of whom were aliens,—and the other, Chinese and Japanese. On many of the white workers absolutely no reliance could be placed. They were dissolute, drunken and withal so unmindful of their employers' interests that they would leave their work, without notice, for days and even weeks at a time. On the other hand, the steadiness and skill of the Japanese and Chinese could at all times be depended on, and with them, there was, moreover, never any likelihood of the suspension of work as a result of disputes or "strikes." In this connection it is, however, necessary to point out that the Cariboo mine-owners and employers of labour have not given employment to Mongolians in preference to white workers on the grounds of economy. On the contrary, it has been shown that an experienced white labourer or navvy who earns in that district three dollars per diem is capable of moving nine cubic yards of earth for a day's work, as against four cubic yards the average daily limit of work accomplished by a Mongolian wage-earner, who receives one dollar and seventy-five cents for a like term of labour. The employment of Mongolians may, therefore, be directly attributed to the untrustworthiness of the white labouring classes in the district, and the natural unwillingness of employers to place themselves at the mercy of their employees. That the Cariboo mining centres are so far removed from the railways, the only means of communication being a waggon-road, three hundred miles in length, accounts for the fact that good white labour was not obtainable in the district. Manual labourers in British Columbia of steady habits and of respectable character have, at present, no need to journey so far to seek employment, and in consequence the demand for labourers in Cariboo has caused an influx of the disreputable or worthless members of the labouring class in such numbers that the whole body of white workers in that district suffer accordingly. A case in point was recently brought to our notice in connection with the "closing down" of the Horsefly mine. Here, in addition to a few skilled miners whom the Horsefly Company had engaged in California, a number of men were employed in the locality on the understanding that they were experienced Kootenav mine-workers. These men only succeeded in mining one ton of material per man a day against five tons representing the work of a California miner. Yet, notwithstanding that they were receiving practically five times the wages of the Californians, they struck for higher pay. As the value of the gravel milled was but one dollar and forty cents per ton the company had no alternative but to stop all operations for the season. Under these circumstances it would, we opine, be hardly advisable to place any further restrictions on the employment of the Mongolian in the Cariboo District until at least a thorough