

ised, to so reduce the surplus of that metal in the market, as to permit of mining operations being carried on at a profit adequate to the elimination of all causes of dispute and the establishment of a suitable asylum for agitators.

In the Nelson district the conditions obtaining at the commencement of the year were such as demanded every encouragement for the assurance of a satisfactory issue.

A period of relapse, following after a more or less fictitiously inflated condition of buoyancy was in existence and the numberless troubles commonly attending the aftermath of an overboomed camp had to be contended with. The promoter of the wild-cat schemes and irresponsible middlemen had reaped their harvests, at the expense of the district, and the glamour of fabulous un-

ings as the Ymir Gold Mines, Limited, the Hall Mining and Smelting Company, Ltd., in both branches of their operations, the Arlington mine and other well-known producers, from which a distinctly reassuring impression is obtained, not only as to the status and future of these undertakings themselves, but also as to the promise of the district of which they are at present the chief ornaments.

It would seem to be but a conservative forecast to say that Ymir Gold Mines, Ltd., have a mine for whose output, even their well equipped 80-stamp mill will soon be insufficient.

The Silver King mine, the property of the Hall Mining & Smelting Co., after many vicissitudes, would appear to give promise of handsomely repaying the steady application of the company's energies to devel-



B.C. PHOTO ENG. CO.

BONNINGTON FALLS, KOOTENAY RIVER, FROM C. P. RY.

certainty was gone; but yet there was developing a new and general feeling of settled industrial progress, enhanced and strengthened by some instances of notable successes in mining undertakings.

The market effect on a field so circumstanced of further deterrent influences can readily be conceived, and might indeed, at first sight, and for want of impartial consideration, be overestimated, and the noticeable lack of many evidences of actual progress be scored against the country to any great extent, perhaps, not warranted by the actual facts.

The possession of power, and the potentiality of achievement, may be as well indicated by a stand, made in the face of opposing forces, as by rapid advancement along lines of less resistance, and the more hopeful view of the situation is certainly borne out by the results of operations conducted by such undertak-

ing in the lower levels, a result specially satisfactory in its bearing on the subject of permanence of the ore bodies of the district with depth. During the year some 5,000 feet of development work was done, all below the 500-foot level, and of this total amount fifty per cent. was on and between the 800, 900 and 1,000-foot levels, and the ore bodies thus opened up, have yielded a net profit on working of \$30,000 per month since shipping was resumed in July. Two years ago the Silver King was supposed, in certain quarters, to be worked out, so far as ore which could be profitably extracted was concerned, and the present results cannot be afforded too great a significance as evidencing the progressive spirit in general obtaining throughout the district.

As set out in the company's report, the decline in the price of silver and lead, severely felt as it was by the mines upon whose output the smelter was so largely de-