

eloquence of Mr. Bostock, M. P., and all the clever lobbying of Mr. Bodwell of Victoria. The C. P. R., as usual, has won with hands down, and, as usual, the Hon. Mr. Blair, Dominion Minister of Railways, has got left. Unfortunately, for himself, the latter backed the Grand Trunk against the Canadian Pacific, and the course which he endorsed was further and fatally jeopardized by its connection with American railroad interests, which do not readily harmonize with Canadian aspirations.

It would appear from comments in the Golden Era and Fort Steele Prospector that there is much indignation still felt in Southeast Kootenay in regard to the few and cursory references to that mining district contained in the annual report of the Ministry of Mines. It was, of course, unfortunate that, probably owing to meagre reports furnished by the Provincial government agents, so little appeared concerning the district in the year's official record, and now it seems that the omission is being unfairly used for political purposes, and to the detriment of the Hon. Col. Baker and the Provincial government.

Mr. E. Blewett and his associates of the Van Anda mine have the machinery already on the way for the erection of a 100-ton smelter, which will be the first to be put up and worked in the Coast district of the Province. It is to be located on Texada Island, the mines and claims of which and adjoining islands will furnish, it is believed, a sufficiency of ore to keep the smelter running full time. There was a chance, if sufficient local encouragement were given, of locating the smelter near Vancouver, but a site on Texada Island now seems fairly certain to be its chosen.

ANOTHER SPECULATIVE SMELTER PROPOSAL.

A concern known as the Anglo-Continental Public Works Company, Limited, of London, England, offers to erect a 350-ton smelter in or near Vancouver, together with a refinery and other accessories, upon condition of certain concessions. They propose that the city shall give the company a free site and free water with an exclusive municipal smelter concession, and also a subsidy of 50 cents per ton up to 30,000 tons per annum for twenty years. The company is in return to give the city £50,000 worth of ten per cent. preference shares out of a total authorized capital of £250,000. The promoters estimate that as a result of this the city would be a gainer during the twenty years period of bonus by the sum of £2,000 a year, assuming that the company pay ten per cent. dividend on the £50,000 of preferred stock, making £5,000 against which £3,000 per annum is to be set off in respect of the smelter bonus on 30,000 tons of ore treated. The finance committee of the city council will consider the matter, but there is no doubt that if the proposal should be taken up in earnest the city will call for very large modifications of the present offer. More probably the municipal authorities of Vancouver will await the expected action of the Vivians of Swansea, who have more than a million sterling at their back.

CANADIAN CHAMBER OF MINES.

An institution under this title has just been established in London, England, and taken offices at No. 64 Gresham street, where a comfortable reading-room has been fitted up for the members in which government publications, as well as the leading mining and financial papers of London and the Colonies are kept on file. Other features of equal importance are the files of mining companies, prospectuses, and a register of Canadian and Australian mining engineers and managers, which the Chamber is now compiling. The Chamber has an influential and energetic list of officers.

It is proposed to ask the Marquis of Dufferin to act as president, and Lord Strathcona and the Earl of Warwick as vice-presidents. On the council British Columbia interests are well represented in Mr. H. Seton-Karr, M. P., (chairman), Mr. E. Grant-Govan (vice-chairman), and Mr. F. Faltinfull Begg, M. P., Hon. Forbes G. Vernon (Agent-General of British Columbia), and Messrs. C. A. Duff-Miller, Louis Campbell-Johnston, T. Mills, E. Pope, and Ross Robinson. The secretary is Mr. E. Jerome Dyer, F. R. G. S., the author of a work on Canada's mineral resources. Mr. Wm. Ogilvie has been elected an honorary member of the Chamber, and he will, it is stated, shortly address the members on his own subject of "The Klondike and its Gold Fields."

A "BOOM" SUGGESTION.

Mr. W. Hanson Boorne, writing to the Vancouver News-Advertiser, says: "I would suggest that British Columbia should take a leaf out of Australia's book and advertise in London by means of that most potent and convincing of all advertisements—gold. There never was a more favorable time or opportunity for Canada than now, when public opinion is wavering and all eyes are directed to toward us, and I would suggest that the Province of British Columbia—or failing, the Provincial government—that the city of Vancouver, possibly Vancouver and Victoria combined, assisted perhaps by one or more of the banks which are showing themselves so keenly interested in the welfare of the Province, should buy up a quantity of Klondike gold—as much as possible, certainly not less than \$150,000—and ship it to England along with as complete an exhibit of local ores and minerals as possible, in charge of competent officials. It should then be placed on exhibition in London—in the city—as near the Royal Exchange and Bank as possible—King William street would be a good position. Offices should be hired, windows fitted up with bars and gratings and appearance of great strength, and some Army-reserve men in uniform placed to guard at the doors, and the gold and minerals exhibited and well advertised. The gold would draw, and in less than a month all London would have seen it, and, if enough of it were there, half Great Britain and half Europe, too, would be talking about it. Then some results from Canada would be visible to the naked eye, and capital for our mines and industries would flow in.

A NEW FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.

The B. C. Permanent Loan and Savings Company has been established, with headquarters in the Mackinnon building, Vancouver. It is the only permanent loan and savings company with headquarters in this Province, and the directors are determined to make it a good institution. Their plans combine the latest improvements with the greatest security. This company will take investments of from one dollar per month upwards, which will give every person a chance to take stock. The directors of the company are: Thos. T. Langlois, Esq., president; D. H. Wilson, Esq., M. D., vice-president; George J. Telfer, Esq., secretary-treasurer; W. H. Malkin, Esq., director; D. Spencer, Esq., Victoria, director; Harris & Bull, solicitors; W. T. Stein, Esq., secretary Board of Trade, Auditor.

FAVORS A PROVINCIAL SUBSIDY.

The New Westminster Board of Trade approves a Provincial grant up to \$4,000 a mile in favor of the proposed Teslin Lake railroad. A resolution in favor of this was passed under strong pressure from representatives of the Vancouver and Victoria boards, who attended the New Westminster board meeting.