

ing under him—stimulating them to use their brains and exercise independent judgment when occasion calls for it, and to look to him for advice only when in doubt or difficulties," with due deference to the principle, however, "that one responsible head is an essential for the proper conduct of business of any description."

Next to labour comes economy in the use of stores, particularly explosives and timber. It may be pointed out, although the fact is not drawn attention to by Mr. Charleton in the present article, that economy in the use of timber is not measured by the amount of timber used. That is one factor, certainly, but to minimise the timber used in a mine to what cannot be done without in the meantime frequently results in the complete ruination of the mine.

In addition, a manager "requires to see that developments are pushed ahead on systematic and proper lines," that a proper system of tallying ore broken and hoisted is in use, that the stopes are properly and regularly measured, and that a proper assay plan is constructed and kept up to date, that stock is taken of stores, that boilers are tested and cleaned when necessary, and their consumption of fuel and water recorded, that renewals and repairs are properly looked after and charged up and more especially that winding ropes and signalling and safety appliances are regularly and thoroughly inspected, and that a record is kept of the life of the different wearing parts of the machinery."

It is not remarkable that good mine managers command high salaries.

The silver market presents features of great encouragement to the silver mine owner in British Columbia. Not only is the price higher, but the tendency is towards progressive improvement. During the year drawing to a close a great demand has sprung up for silver in the East. The Indian government has bought large quantities, as it has been discovered there, that whatever the standard may be, the currency in use among the people must be made of the white metal. Japan has also entered the market for the first time since it adopted a gold standard; the object of Japan's purchases has probably been to pay the expenses of the Japanese forces in China. Russia has been a heavy buyer for the same reason. The demand from China itself has been the most marked of all. Chinese merchants are no longer importing foreign goods in exchange for their exports, but taking payments in silver, which in troublous times like the present is more easily conveyed and also more easily concealed. None of the conditions which have led to this extra demand on the silver producing resources of the world are at all likely to disappear for a long time to come; and the production of silver cannot be largely increased without a greater advance in price than has hitherto taken place. Therefore, the silver market is likely to discover a decided shortage in the supply of that metal sometime in the not very remote future. The immediate effect of this would be to cause a rapid advance in the price of the metal to 75 or 80 cents, or even higher, which advance, however, could not be expected to continue. When the boom was over silver would settle down to a normal price on a higher level than its present market value. Such a boom would be of the greatest possible service to British Columbia. It would stimulate mining in the

Province to a hitherto undreamt of degree and bring new districts rapidly to the front. It would not be at all surprising if the next mining excitement in British Columbia were a silver mining excitement and the next great inrush of capital attracted by the Province's silver resources. The movement of silver to the Orient shows a great change as the following table shows:

	1899.	1900.	Changes.
London to British East Indies	£4,162,007	£4,968,476	1. £ 806,469
London to Japan	89,800	1. 89,800
London to China	1,276,375	1,949,376	1. 673,001
Totals	£5,438,382	£7,007,852	1. £1,569,470
San Francisco to China	971,080	2,346,859	1. 1,375,779
San Francisco to Japan	13,047	1. 13,047
Totals	£6,409,462	£9,367,768	1. £2,958,306

It will be seen that while London remains the shipping point for the British East Indies, China and Japan are buying very largely from San Francisco. British Columbia is quite as well situated, in fact better situated than San Francisco to export silver to the Oriental market. Why does British Columbia not open up this trade. Sooner or later it will be done, of course. But progress consists in realising such opportunities and setting to work to carry out such ideas in a practical way. Here is a profitable opportunity for the investment of capital in British Columbia. During the present year the silver output of British Columbia must have been very nearly doubled, and is increasing very rapidly. There must be a profit in refining the metal in British Columbia and shipping it direct to the Orient instead of allowing it to be transmitted through a dozen different hands in the United States and Great Britain before it reaches its ultimate destination.

We are in receipt of a letter from Mr. S. Thornton Langley, of Rossland, which is published with a certain amount of diffidence. We are compelled to excise one paragraph in which Mr. Langley makes statements about the directors of the company which we have no desire to be invited by a court of law to sustain. The letter reads as follows:

Rossland, B. C. Nov. 12, 1900.

The Editor B. C. Mining Record, Victoria, B. C.:

Dear Sir,—I have seen your paragraph in this month's issue, referring to my connection with the Okanagan Gold Mines, Limited, in very unfavourable terms. You are entirely in error in your conclusions in this matter, as I was in no way responsible for the failure of the company. In the ordinary course of business I was engaged as a broker to sell the shares of the company, which I did to the entire satisfaction of the directors and shareholders, and in July, 1899, I received a vote of thanks from them for the able and efficient manner in which I had conducted the sale of shares entrusted to me by the company.

At no time was I a manager or had anything whatever to do with the active management of the company. I was a director for three months, from August to October, 1899, during which time I was absent from Rossland, but during this period the company was in a prosperous condition. After I left the directorate and all of the treasury shares of the company had been disposed of, I sold part of my shares, as I had a perfect right to do. At that period the company had a most favorable future before it, which would have been amply realized had it even been fairly managed.