

we have seen, not insuperable, thanks to the energy and skill brought to bear. But there yet remains much to be accomplished ere a start is made in actual profitable working. That end which means so much not only to Cariboo but to other sections of the Province where similar conditions obtain, now, however, seems to be within measureable distance of consummation.

The report of the investigations in the Nicola district of Dr. Ellis, of the Canadian Geological Survey Department will be awaited with much interest, for it is believed that this section of country will, once it is rendered more accessible by the extension of the railway system thither, contribute very considerably to the productive wealth of the Province, not only in respect to a large output of copper and gold, but of coal also. Dr. Ellis, however, we understand, proposes to confine himself exclusively to the study of coal resources of the district with a view to ascertaining the width of the seams, extent of the measures and quality of the coal. It is needless to say that when conditions permit of the operation of the Similkameen and Nicola copper-gold mines, the existence of a good coking coal in the immediate vicinity will assist materially in the cheapening of smelting costs; and it is to be hoped therefore that Dr. Ellis will be sufficiently satisfied with the results of his investigations to report favourably in this regard.

Residents in the Omineca district complain, not without reason, of the inadequacy of the mail service provided for that territory. Thus the present mail contract only affords six mails to Hazelton in the year; two of which deliveries are brought in overland during the winter and limited each to fifty pounds weight of letters. A correspondent writing to the *Colonist* on this point remarks that as a result of this arrangement the first steamer delivery this spring amounted to nineteen hundred pounds of mail matter, representing chiefly letters that had been delayed six months in transit. What is therefore required is a full monthly service, necessitating an increase in the present Government appropriation for the service.

All Omineca points within a radius of two hundred miles are dependent upon Hazelton for their mail distribution, and include the mining camps of Manson, Germanson, Vital and Tom's Creek; the Telkna coal and quartz mining camps, and the Bulkley and Kispiox Valley settlements.

A financial writer in the *London Mining Journal* suggests that some attempt is likely to be made to utilize the misfortunes of the Le Roi Company in order to oust the present board and warns shareholders against participating in any action of the kind on the grounds that there is nothing to be gained by a change, the honesty of the present board being above suspicion. *Cela va sans dire*. In only one direction might a change, we respectfully submit, be advantageously made. It is a well known that the present chairman, Sir Henry Tyler, is a very old man, of

nearer eighty than seventy-five years of age. In view of this and the fact that there are younger men available on the directorate possessing undoubted business capacity and standing, and in case of one at any rate, special knowledge in respect to mining conditions in British Columbia, it might be to the company's interest upon Sir Henry Tyler's resignation at the close of his term of office, to elect in his stead Mr. G. S. Waterlow, who has already done much in the interests of legitimate mining, in this country and has himself invested heavily in Kootenay mines.

The consolidation of interests in the Boundary district by the organization of the new Montreal & Boston Company now appears to have been finally arranged, a first cash payment having been made towards the purchase of the Dominion Copper Company's property while the Athelstane and Jackpot claims have also been acquired by the concern. As we stated last month, the company starts more or less severely handicapped on account of an unduly large capitalization, considering the present known value of the properties secured. It is quite possible, however, that this objection may not appear so formidable should the development operations, which we understand are to be extensively carried out at the mines, result satisfactorily. Although we were unable to endorse the promotion as promising well from the investor's standpoint, yet since the consolidation is effected and actual work has commenced, we sincerely trust the undertaking will be successful, and that the company has a long and prosperous career before it.

The winding-up of the North Star Mining Company is a matter of very considerable regret, for there are relatively few instances in British Columbia where mining operations have been carried on upon equally sound business principles. In consequence so long as there was ore to be mined, the North Star paid very handsome profits, the large sum of \$312,000 having been distributed in dividends since the company commenced operations. For the past two years or more, however, the attempt to discover fresh ore-bodies, though scientifically pursued, has unfortunately not proved successful, and upon the recommendation of Mr. S. S. Fowler, the eminent consulting engineer, who recently made an exhaustive examination, the directors have been compelled to advise the abandonment of further effort in this direction, and at a subsequent extraordinary meeting of shareholders a motion authorising the voluntary liquidation of the company was agreed to. By this plan shareholders will receive a final dividend of approximately fifteen per cent. or perhaps more, from a distribution of a substantial cash balance and the proceeds from the sale of realisable property. Meanwhile an interim dividend of 7 cents per share has been declared.

The Slocan *Drill* instances a rather curious point in connection with the crown-granting of mineral claims. Thus the owners of a four-seventh interest