

the west side of Kootenay Lake, which can be delivered to a smelter at 50c. a ton. The high grade coal and coke of the Crow's Nest Pass is only 120 miles away, and can be brought to Kitchener at a cost of \$3.00 for coal and \$5.00 for coke. Allowing for the higher rate of wage prevailing in the West, I consider that pig iron can be made on this property at a cost not exceeding \$10 a ton and this iron can be delivered at a cost of \$13.00 to \$15.00 at the coast. At the present time pig iron delivered at any of the coast cities is worth \$22.00 a ton, and even admitting that prices are above the normal, there would still be a wide margin in favour of the local product.

It may be too soon for British Columbia to support such an industry, but except in the face of a very high tariff the Western States would be customers for steel produced at Kitchener, and in any case the Orient trade would be fairly within our grasp, as under no circumstances would it cost as much more to produce steel at Kitchener as the difference in cost of transportation between Pittsburg and the Pacific coast and Kitchener and the coast, and this would be the final and determining factor in competition. The property is in the hands of men who will develop it in the best interests of the Province; it will be made to serve Canadian interests every time, and the proprietors have not only the will, but the ability to handle it in such a manner as will, in my opinion, produce important financial results for Western Canada.

A NEGLECTED ASSET.

(By Clive Phillips-Wolley.)

IT is often said that more money is made out of the or copper for the sake of which it was originally by-products of a mine, than out of the gold, silver developed, and this in some cases is undoubtedly true.

There are by-products of a mineral zone for a mining camp just as there by-products of an individual mine, and it is one of these which experience leads us to believe is badly neglected in British Columbia.

Thirst is no doubt a by-product of mining, but that is sufficiently well attended to by the saloons of every camp. The development and treatment of it ranks first in the paying industries of all mining fields, unfortunately.

Sciatica and rheumatism, not altogether unconnected with the first-mentioned by-product, are almost as common as thirst, and to these, although nature has provided every facility, we do not pay sufficient attention.

It is undoubtedly true that these two diseases are the peculiar curse of our mining districts in the Northwest, and prey principally upon the strong frames of men whose trade makes them careless of weather and exposure and whose temperament makes them as reckless of wet within as of wet without.

Nature, foreseeing as usual, has provided the cure where she has allowed the evil to exist. In the vicinity of most of our mining fields hot springs of sul-

phur or lithia bubbles up from the ground. Without going as far afield as Paso Robles, in California, or even Green River Hot Springs, in Washington county, we have Banff beyond our borders and within them the lithia springs of Halcyon, on the Kootenay lakes, Harrison on the C. P. Railway, only about 80 miles from Vancouver, a set of springs on the West Coast of the Island, treated of in a recent issue of the Record, and no doubt others as yet unknown to fame. If our memory serves us there is a spring near Ainsworth and on at least one of the exquisite islands in the Gulf of Georgia sulphur water is to be found.

According to that admirable delineator of animal life, Mr. Seton Thompson, even the grizzly bear has sense enough to recognize the curative qualities of a sulphur spring and to use it, and from Halcyon, in Kootenay, to Harrogate, in Yorkshire, tens of thousands of sufferers seek and obtain relief from the hot sulphur water treatment.

Our contentions are:

That, in very many years experience, we have never yet seen any perfectly conducted springs;

That any perfectly conducted hot springs would make more money than most mines;

That if we chose to try we could have those perfectly conducted hot springs in our own country instead of going over the boundary or to the old country for them.

What is wanted is a first rate mineral spring in an accessible position. This we have in every instance mentioned. We have heard it stated that, perhaps in the least known of those mentioned, the water is the best, carrying a larger per centage of lithia than any other springs in North America, or perhaps in the world. But there are other requisites besides a good spring to make a sanitarium a success, and here it is that we break down. We remember well going to one establishment and inquiring for a masseur. The host, a bluff and no doubt honest fellow, asked us what a masseur was, and being told replied: "Oh, we don't go in for none of that gory rot here. You kin jest soak in the water and dry yourself." And yet any sciatic patient knows that massage is half the battle. In another magnificently equipped establishment the attendant doctor never even took the trouble to examine the patient's heart to see whether he could stand the extreme heat to which he was submitted, and, indeed, as manager of an hotel which boasted a superb cuisine, had not time to attend to the symptoms of particular patients. And yet if one patient at that hotel had dropped dead from heart trouble his death would have caused serious loss and discredit to the springs, whilst on the other hand every patient who was there would have been content to pay more if he felt that his case was being treated specifically by one who had special knowledge of his disease.

In another establishment the bath house was so abominably dirty that it hardly caused you an extra shudder to be put into a hole of hot filth alongside the coloured boot boy of the hotel and if you were a specially hard or brave man you managed to choke over the talk of the niggers and half-breeds and get your bare feet out of the way of casual expectorants,