

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Books: No. 5,047, for the Installation and use of Westinghouse Multiple Alternating Current Arc Lamps; No. 5,080, for the Installation and Operation of Westinghouse Type 167-A Auto-Starters for Constant Speed Induction Motors (various voltages); No. 5,081, for Operating Westinghouse Portable Lamp Testing Wattmeter; and No. 5,082, for the Installation and Operation of Type R. Motors. Also illustrated pamphlets relating to Westinghouse Multiple-Alternating Arc Lamp System, and Type B Westinghouse Integrating Wattmeters, respectively.

The Kilgore-Peteler Co., of Minneapolis, Minn., has issued its illustrated Catalogue No. 3, Dump Cars.

The Colorado Iron Works Co's Catalogue No. 12 "Some Details as to Smelting Practice and Equipments, for the Reduction of Gold, Silver, Lead and Copper Ores," is the fifth edition of this useful and freely illustrated publication, which contains 152 pages of reading of particular interest to smelting men. The contents are important notes and data in regard to modern blast furnace smelting, illustrating the various types of furnaces and equipment as built by the Colorado Iron Works Co., and now in successful operation in almost all parts of the world where smelting is carried on to any extent; the design and construction of plants, with brief articles relating to or descriptive of the smelting of ores.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries, through its consulting engineers, the Standard Construction Co., of Montreal, has paid the Canadian Rand Drill Co. a distinct compliment in selecting one of its Imperial type XI-1 air compressors for the forthcoming expedition to Greenland. This machine is for the S.S. Arctic, which is being fitted out at Halifax for its long and perilous journey in search of the North Pole. The compressor is to be operated by a windmill, since it will be impossible to obtain fuel for steam, and the air will be discharged into several receivers at a high pressure; the air, in turn, being used in place of steam to generate electricity.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

*Department of Agriculture, Canada, Statistics Division.—Statistical Year Book of Canada for 1904.* By George Johnson, D.C.L., statistician. Pages, 763; illustrated with diagrams.

*Department of the Interior, Canada.—Canadian National Park, Rocky Mountains, Banff, Alberta.* Pages, 63; profusely illustrated, partly in colours.

*Geological Survey Department of Canada.—Summary Report of the Department for 1904.* By Dr. Robert Bell, acting director. Pages, 392; illustrated with maps.

*Geological Survey of Canada.—Section of Mines Annual Report for 1903.* By Elfric Drew Ingall, mining engineer in charge. Pages, 175; illustrated with diagrams.

*Columbia University, New York City.—School of Mines Quarterly, July, 1905.* Pages, 142; illustrated.

*University of Washington.—The Bulletin of the University of Washington, Seattle.* University Views; Series 2, No. 23.

*United States Geological Survey.—*

*Economic Geology of the Bingham Mining District, Utah.* By John Mason Boutwell; with a Section on Areal Geology, by Arthur Keith, and an Introduction on General Geology, by Samuel Franklin Emmons. Pages, 393; illustrated by numerous half-tones, maps and diagrams.

*The Fairhaven Gold Placers, Seward Peninsula, Alaska.* By Fred H. Moffit. Pages, 79; illustrated by half-tones and maps.

*The Gold Placers of the Forty-mile, Birch Creek, and Fairbanks Regions, Alaska.* By Louis M. Prindle. Pages 34; illustrated by half-tones and maps.

*Methods and Costs of Gravel and Placer Mining in Alaska.* By Chester Wells Purington. Pages, 262; illustrated by half-tones, maps and diagrams.

*Report of Progress of Steam Measurements for 1904.* Parts II, VII and IX.

(Note.—Reviews of several books recently received are unavoidably held over until next month.)

## VERMILION FORKS MINING &amp; DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

To the Editor:

Sir,—The somewhat harsh criticism of the Vermilion Forks Mining Co., which appeared in your June issue warrants a reply.

The policy of the Vermilion Forks Mining Co. has, for a very good reason, been that of rigid economy, and, possibly, had you been a shareholder in the company and understood the conditions under which its affairs had been carried on, you would not have stigmatized it as "a dog in the manger" policy. This statement is not only unfair, but it is not warranted by facts. The operations of this much maligned company, so far from deterring others, have, owing to their borings and other development of their coal properties, been the chief incentive in inducing many others to take up coal locations in the district, as shown by the fact that over 24 sq. miles of coal lands are held under lease and licence in this vicinity, whereas until the Vermilion Forks Co. commenced work there was no licences applied for, although the existence of the coal had been known for more than 20 years. It is hardly necessary to point out that coal is a commodity of little value without some cheap form of transportation, and developing a coal property becomes an expensive matter when there are no facilities for reaching a market, while the installation of plant becomes almost prohibitive when the wagon freight alone amounts to 3 cents per lb. The same may be said of the mineral claims, which as you remark, are lying unworked. I quite agree that there is a very serious side to the matter when a district of such potential wealth as the Similkameen can be left so long without railway communication; serious to British Columbia, and equally serious to those companies and individuals who have been struggling on for 10 years and more, hoping against hope that the lethargy displayed by those in power would at last be dispelled, and communication with the outside world be accorded. Until this takes place the interests of the province and the shareholders is best served by economy. Too many hillsides in British Columbia are decorated with abandoned mines and machinery, telling their own tale of lavish and useless expenditure, and causing the pocket of the would-be investor in British Columbia mines to be buttoned up with greater precaution.

It is a relief to find that your strictures on the economical working of the Vermilion Forks Co. are not shared by the English papers who have commented on the report, and I am under the impression they are at variance with earlier comment which appeared in your own paper.

In conclusion I would say that my directors do not anticipate any difficulty in providing ample funds for the development of our various properties as soon as railway facilities are available.

ERNEST WATERMAN,  
Manager.

Princeton, B.C., August 8, 1905.

[Far from our comment, above complained of, having been "harsh criticism," we purposely avoided criticism of some features of this company's policy that we think we might fairly have taken exception to. We certainly did not suggest that anything but "rigid economy" had been practised; on the contrary, we pointed out that for the comparatively small outlay of \$77,000, spread over seven years, the company had "a big showing," embracing mineral claims, coal lands, hydraulic leases, a ranch, a smelter site, water rights, and a townsite. We think, though, that the commercial morality of a company continuing to add to its holdings, the while admitting that it had not made provision for payment in full of its small expenditure of \$7,180 during its last financial year, and that one-third of its manager's salary had for a