

progress in metal mining in the United States. Of the most northerly territory of that country, Mr. Hobart wrote: "Alaska still has its surprises. If Nome has begun to lose its interest for the miner, new districts have been opened up on the Tanana, on Copper River, in other parts of the coast country, and in the American Yukon. The great low-grade mines of Douglas Island continue to work steadily, and with no signs as yet of exhausting the ore deposits. New methods and better transportation are gradually overcoming the difficulties imposed by the rigorous climate, and making the far north a valuable contributor to our national wealth."

The *Toronto Globe* congratulates Mr. A. J. McMillan upon his victory over the powerful interests that sought to include the Le Roi mine in a dubious amalgamation scheme. "Mr. McMillan," remarks our contemporary, "must have had an impregnable case in order to prevail over the influential principalities and powers that were arrayed against him. However good his case was, it would have been no avail if Mr. McMillan had not displayed such tireless energy and fine generalship in presenting it to those interested in the Le Roi. The shareholders are to be congratulated on retaining the services of a gentleman who has already shown his knowledge, reliability, and integrity in the management of the property."

The *Nicola Herald* is to be congratulated on the stand it has taken in exposing the doings of the Nicola Coal & Coke Co., of Portland, Oregon, which appears to have been working the public rather than its coal lands. We heartily applaud the following sentiments of the *Herald*, which in this policy provides an example several other provincial newspapers might follow with eventual advantage to the districts in which they are published: "The *Nicola Herald* is fully aware of the fine coal showings in Nicola Valley and desires to see companies and owners doing *bona fide* work and will render every assistance possible to such parties. But to parties who secure supposed coal land, stock and sell the shares to the public, we believe it is our duty to the district to hinder such stock jobbing, as it will if permitted to go on, materially affect the district."

Advices from Ottawa state that the amount of the bounty paid by the Dominion Government on lead produced in Canada during the calendar year 1905 was \$334,224. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1905, the total paid was \$337,216, and for the year ended June 30, 1904, \$195,284. As the bounty payable decreases as lead advances in price, and ceases altogether when the London price is £16 or higher per ton, which was the case from November 29 on through the remainder of the year 1905, the comparison of total amount of bounty paid in the fiscal and calendar years, respectively, does not show the actual position as regards production. As a matter of fact, the figures given by the official who distributes the bounty in British Columbia—there is little or no lead

produced elsewhere in Canada—show an increase in production during the last calendar year as compared with the last fiscal year of about 1,600,000 lb. of metallic lead.

The blowing in, on 11th inst., of the second furnace at the Dominion Copper Co.'s smelter, at Boundary Falls, brought about the satisfactory condition of affairs in connection with the smelters that every furnace in the district was in simultaneous operation. The total smelting capacity of the three district smelters, with all furnaces running, is rather more than 4,000 tons of ore per day, in the following proportions: Granby Co.'s smelter at Grand Forks, with eight furnaces, 2,800 tons; B. C. Copper Co.'s smelter at Greenwood, with two furnaces, 600 to 700 tons per day, and Dominion Copper Co.'s smelter at Boundary Falls, also 600 to 700 tons per day. All three smelters are now working 8-hour shifts in the case of men who previously had to work 12 hours. An understanding has been arrived at relative to wages to be paid under the new conditions. This desirable change has removed what had long been regarded as likely to lead to difficulties with the men and a probable interruption of work. Now there should be no ordinary obstacle to the smelters running continuously so long as ore shall be available for their furnaces.

On January 20, inst., under the caption "Prediction Realised," the *Week* published the following: "It is with regret that the news of the stoppage of all development work in the mines of the Tyee Copper Co., was received by the outside world this week. After all the recent report of the eminent American expert, and the hysterical efforts of a friendly press have failed to galvanise it into life." It would have cost 40 cents to have telephoned the Tyee Co.'s general manager and learned from him that development work had not been stopped, but rather than take a little trouble to ascertain the truth in that proper and easy manner, publicity was given to an unfounded rumour, and this with characteristic disregard of the editor to facts as affecting certain provincial mining companies that have earned comparatively large profits, but which he appears to take pleasure in misrepresenting. It is gratifying to us to now be able to state that less than a fortnight later the general manager was in a position to cable his co-directors in London as follows: "At the 1,000-ft. level in the cross-cut south of main shaft, at 187 ft. entered soft grey schist, and at 210 ft. encountered mineral-bearing rock, about 3 ft. wide, assaying 1.32 per cent copper, 23 oz. silver, trace of gold. Face of cross-cut is in soft grey schist."

The London *Financier* recently published a long article which was based on the Annual Mining Review published on January 1 in the *Nelson Daily News* and prepared for both journals by the editor of the B. C. MINING RECORD at their joint expense. The concluding comments of the *Financier* were: "With regard to copper production British Columbia is