

comes mystified by the use of several names to designate one and the same place.

The director of the Geological Survey Department of Canada desires it to be made known that a "Preliminary Report on the Rossland District" has been prepared by Mr. R. W. Brock of the Survey, that it is now in the printer's hands and that it will, as soon as possible, be despatched, free of cost, to any *bona fide* applicant in the Rossland district, who sends his name and address to the librarian of the Department. A full report, by Mr. Brock, is being prepared and will be put through the press as soon as the maps and plans are received from the engraver. The Preliminary Report, meanwhile, contains a large amount of useful information. It deals with the origin of the ore deposits, and with the chances of their value in depth, and it discusses the probabilities of other deposits being found outside the area now being mined. It relates the methods now being employed, or proposed, and touches lightly on the question of costs and profits. All these subjects will be dealt with more fully in the bulletin now being prepared; but it has been deemed advisable to publish the present Preliminary Report to meet the wishes of the Rossland mining public, who do not care to wait until the maps and plans can be engraved.

The *Vancouver Province* states that the old smelter building, occupying the site of P. Burns & Co.'s new abattoir, has been burned, as the cost of dismantling it would have been much greater. The following, from Bulletin No. 19, *Mining in British Columbia*, briefly tells of the smelter, the last of which has now been seen: "The first smelter erected in the Coast section of British Columbia was that built at Vancouver, but this can hardly be regarded as having been seriously intended for the reduction of ores, as there was not a single mine in British Columbia at that time sufficiently developed to warrant it. In fact lode mining was in its mere infancy, and, apparently, the lead mine at Field, which was never worked since, was depended upon for the supply of ore. The Field mine has almost been forgotten. The inside history of the smelter at Vancouver may never be written; but, whatever its real purpose, the fact remains that it was not long operated, if at all. It was supplied with a 75-ton lead stack, which eventually, in 1900, was removed to Van Anda, Texada Island, and there altered and used for copper-ore smelting."

According to a Hamilton, Ontario, despatch lately published in the *Toronto Globe*, "arrangements have been completed for the location in the Hoepfner Refining Co's buildings at Hamilton of the first silver refinery in Canada." Hamilton is a little astray on this point. The first lead, silver and gold refining on a commercial scale in Canada was done at the Canadian Smelting Works, Trail, British Columbia, at which works the first refined lead was produced in January, 1902, the silver refinery at Trail was built in 1903, and the first consignment of refined silver and refined

gold was shipped from Trail in October of that year. Doubtless a silver refinery at Hamilton would find plenty of material in Cobalt ores for the extraction and refining of silver, but whether it be established soon or late, the credit and distinction of having established and maintained in operation the first silver refinery in Canada must remain with British Columbia, in which province the Canadian Smelting Works is producing an average of about \$15,000 worth (gross value) of metal daily, of which \$4,000 is silver, representing a production of that metal alone at the rate of nearly \$1,500,000 per year, with a prospect of a larger production following an increase of the capacity of the refinery now contemplated.

In supporting the extensive movement for the creation of a Department of Mines and Mining in the United States a widely circulated mining newspaper observes: "With a Department of Mines and Mining, there would be a tendency to not only further the interests of the industry, but there would also be a desire to make the corporation a better, safer, more enduring institution." *Apropos* of the like endeavour to have a Dominion Department of Mines in Canada, the *Nelson Daily News* says: The formation and subsequent management of this new department naturally concerns British Columbians more than the residents of all the other provinces of the Dominion, since admittedly, British Columbia is and will remain the banner mining province of Canada. Beyond the fact that a Federal Department of Mines would be created this session little or nothing has been given out by the authorities at Ottawa but it is confidently expected that the new department will be thoroughly up to date in every way and that a competent staff will be employed. Mining men hardly realise out here what the new departure means to the industry and all who are connected directly or indirectly with it. The *Daily News* believes that with Hon. W. Templeman at its head the Federal Department of Mines will prove of immense value to the industry in this Province.

In the course of his address, at the annual meeting of shareholders in the Bank of British North America held in London on 6th inst., the chairman of the bank dwelt at considerable length on business conditions in Canada during the past year, and paid particular attention to British Columbia and the Yukon. Concerning mining he said: "In mining in British Columbia the approximate estimate of the mineral production for 1905, sent over in anticipation of the full returns, gives a total of \$21,403,000; these figures show an increase of more than two million dollars over the value of the output of 1904—a difference which is largely accounted for by the high price ruling in 1904, which has stimulated production of the great copper mines of the Boundary district. In the Yukon a further decline in the output of gold has to be noticed. The Government figures, calculating gold at \$15 per oz., show a total export of \$7,110,000 which is more than \$2,000,000 less than the output for