

be, that the report of the Commission will be discredited in advance, while certainly its work will be seriously handicapped by the avowed determination of several of the principal mine owners to refuse Mr. Garde access to their mines,"—then either the conduct of these mine-owners is childish, or there is something more than an alleged objection to Mr. Garde to explain it. It is well to remember, however, that the zinc investigation was devised to promote and assist the development of a Canadian industry and not for the benefit of individuals, consequently no individual has any right to place obstacles in the way or restrict the scope or usefulness of the enquiry.

Since the above was written, our correspondent in British Columbia has sent us the following information:—

"The Zinc Commission is meeting with an untowardly reception in the Kootenay. There is a legitimate grievance and one that is not legitimate. In the first place, to be of much avail, the Commission ought to take in all the zinc properties and not merely the mines which have showed a large percentage of zinc ore as depth has been gained. To do this, considerably more time than that which has been allotted, which is variously stated as from two to four months, should be given to the enquiry. At a time when zinc was a distinct detriment to a mine, every prospect which showed ore containing a heavy percentage of zinc was left unworked. It was seen from the start that under the then conditions its profitable exploitation would be impossible unless the zinc would lessen its percentage as depth was gained. Unfortunately the reverse has proved to be the case, mines have rather heightened than lowered their percentage of zinc with increased depth. Now every one of these prospects is of value in the estimation of the magnitude of the zinc resources of the Kootenay. But to anything like thoroughly examine these properties it would be necessary for the Zinc Commission to extend its labours into next season, doing as much as possible this and devoting a portion of the winter for considering the problems of zinc reduction especially where chemically combined with iron. The other grievance is childish. A dead set has been made at the appointment of Mr. A. C. Garde as the local expert. It is claimed that this is altogether political, but this hardly seems to be the case as the objection comes not alone from Kaslo but also from Sandon. Now the Sandon opposition would seem to originate from the Payne (on account of matters connected with details of Mr. Garde's management of which a lawsuit is pending), the Lucky Jim and another American mine, the manager of which is actively opposed to Mr. Garde, is making himself active in the opposition. This can hardly be termed political. These men have refused to allow Mr. Garde to enter their mines. But, under the constitution of the Commission, as arranged by Dr. Haanel, it is not Mr. Garde but Mr. Phillip Argall who is to examine the mines, Mr. Garde's duty is to look into the prospects. Therefore, if Mr. Argall is to be excluded from the

mines of these men because they have some private cause of offence with his local colleague, such a procedure cannot be termed otherwise than childish and petulant. It is declared but not officially, nor by any responsible mining board or man that Mr. Garde is thought to be lacking in knowledge of his subject despite his institution of the first zinc concentrator in the country, but the public generally are willing enough to accept Dr. Haanel's judgment in this matter."

Therefore, it is probable, despite the reiterated petitions made to Ottawa, that this side of the controversy will be allowed to drop and the real cause of grievance, the lack of sufficient time, will urge itself more insistently upon the attention of the department.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION IN THE KOOTENAYS.

A special correspondent of the MINING REVIEW writes:—

The members of the Tariff Commission were somewhat astonished at the free trade sentiment expressed by the miners of the Boundary and of Rossland. In Nelson the representatives of the lead mining interest held opposite views. What the lead men ask is a permanent duty upon lead and its products at the expiration of the bounty system. It is also desired that the chief duty should be placed upon the production of pig lead, as, it is stated, that here the chief cost is incurred and not in the manufacture of pipe and of sheet lead from the pig. The justification for the duty was reasonably put. Lead mine owners pointed out that to develop a lead mine it was necessary to spend much time, years in fact, in development before the property could be a sure and steady shipper. This involved the expenditure of much capital. Now, capital would think twice and did think twice before investing in the lead mines of the Kootenay. There was no surety about the price of lead. It was possible that at the end of the development that it would be found that lead had dropped so much that its mining would be unprofitable. In other words, all the capital expended upon that development would be practically wasted. As long as there existed a bounty system there was no such fear. But the bounty system was only inaugurated for five years, half of which time has elapsed. Were the bounty to be counted upon to continue, then conditions would be different;—they would be more stable. And stable conditions are those to which the capitalists look for profit. The same would be the case were a permanent duty to be placed upon the import of lead. It would guarantee the Canadian market.

It was further urged that the manufacturers of paint should be more sharply looked after and compelled to place upon their paints the percentage of lead contained therein. At present the adulterators used little lead and the paint was not lasting. The manufacturers of good paint suffered because of their cheap competitors. The public were not