

to such a concern there is a difference of opinion amongst people in the Terminal City, but there is this to be said about it: There are four cities on the Coast, each one of which is looking forward to having a smelter and it is not unlikely that the one offering the best inducements to the smelter people will carry off the prize.

Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo are each possessed of advantages as a site for a smelting plant and that one of these four cities will have works of that description before long is certain. Which one will it be?

The Coast cities are very properly much interested in the building of a direct railway line to the Kootenay and unless this is done simultaneously with the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway the trade of Kootenay will be lost to British Columbia. It will go altogether to Eastern Canada and the United States. This, if allowed, will be a serious affair for the province.

But there is another matter which it seems to us the Coast cities in their desire to secure their share of the inland trade are neglecting.

It is now well known that the coast and islands of British Columbia are exceedingly rich in minerals. Recent investigation has demonstrated the fact that great mines exist at various points and all that is necessary is development to make them profitable producers.

Now here is a field which should engage the earnest attention of the coast cities. The development and operation of these mines will mean a large outlay for supplies amongst the merchants. It will give employment to many men and consequently increase largely the circulation of money. It will be of great benefit to the shipping trade and make it imperative to have large smelting works and other industries at several points along the coast. The people of Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo should waken up to the possibilities of the coast mining trade and encourage the opening up of the mines near home.

A ferry for the conveyance of passengers and freight railway cars to and from Nanaimo and the Mainland is to be established, the chief object of which, we understand, is the conveyance of coke from the ovens at Union to the smelters at Kootenay. This is a good move and shows the advantage which smelters on the coast would enjoy by having the necessary fuel close to them.

It is said too that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is interested in this ferry project and the conveyance of the coke to Kootenay. This is probably

true, and is another sign of the awakening of the railway company to the possibilities of our mining districts. It is even reported that the C.P.R. is going into the smelting business at Trail and other points. We are not quite so sure of this, but we cannot see why they should not own and control smelters as they do hotels.

Not long ago we gave it as our opinion that the C.P.R. people were not quite so indifferent to the trade of Kootenay as some people supposed. Recent events show that we were correct, and if we mistake not the coming summer will show a degree of activity on their part that will be a surprise to those who have allowed themselves to think that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are behind in this age of progress.

But the activity of the C.P.R. means more than may at first be thought. It means that its two great rivals, the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, are not likely to allow the C.P.R. to have it all its own way. Already we hear of these two great roads seeking independent entrance into the Kootenay, and what these great railway corporations seek for they generally find.

Let anyone pause and think of the great movements now on foot for the development of the vast resources of British Columbia and he will no longer doubt that we are on the eve of wonderful progress and great prosperity.

It is the opinion of influential English journals that British capital is looking toward this province as a field for profitable investment, and that during the present season a large amount of money will find its way here.

This being the case, we may expect a considerable influx of visitors from the other side of the Atlantic during the year to spy out the land, and in this connection we wish to give a word of caution.

We will have to remember the saying that "all is not gold that glitters" when strangers from the other side come amongst us. If we use ordinary care, however, it will not be difficult to detect the spurious article.

We will have men here from England and elsewhere who will pose as the representatives of capital, but who, in reality, will be mere adventurers looking for something that will cost them little or nothing, but which they will expect to sell for a big sum on their return to the Old Country.

Unfortunately, these men are not overscrupulous as to the means they employ to gain their ends. They will not hesitate to exaggerate in order to catch the unwary investor in England, and in this way will