

larger order, or have to be bought. I have seen English catalogues with a price mark of 10s. 6d. on them, but I have never seen a purchaser. Messrs. Tange's catalogues are excellent, but are too expensively got up for promiscuous distribution. Hoping these well-meant hints will be received in the spirit with which they are given.—Yours, etc.

COSMOPOLITAN.

New York, December 8.

To the foregoing may be added the fact that American machinery firms thoroughly understand the advantage of maintaining reliable and up-to-date technical journals. In the issue of the *London Mining Journal* in which the above letter was printed the space devoted to advertisements of machinery was roughly nine and one-third pages. That includes a good deal of advertising matter which does not come strictly under this class. Out of this two pages or so are occupied either by American firms, or English firms with American branches, or the converse. The great body of English manufacturers of machinery is evidently quite unrepresented. In the *Engineering News* and *American Railway Journal* of New York the pages devoted to this class of advertising number fifty. The body of all such journals in America is besides full of descriptions of new machines and improvements copiously illustrated. Such matter may be paid for or it may not. Whether it is or not it is of great advantage to prospective buyers. In addition, the display type used in English technical journals looks as though it had been called from the pie box of an up-country printing office. It gives a black muzzy impression of unrelieved monotony, and the one idea of display matter seems to be to get as much black ink as possible on to as small a white paper space as possible. Even the *MINING RECORD*, which does not pretend to cover a business field more extended than British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest, has twenty-three pages devoted to advertisements of machinery as compared with the *London Mining Journal's* nine and one-third. If we are to judge by the way in which we keep our advertisers and the unsolicited business in this line which keeps dropping in our advertisers get value for their money. British Columbia may not yet be the largest but it is certainly the most rapidly expanding market for machinery, particularly mining machinery, in the world. English manufacturers simply refuse to enter it. Presumably they are still in doubt whether British Columbia is yet an "orthodox buyers or in the profession." It cannot be helped. It is more their loss than ours.

Numerous estimates have been made of the value of the output of our lode mines during 1900. They have varied from \$9,000,000 to \$12,000,000. The higher figure is probably more nearly correct. The practice of the Mines Department of closing the year for the statistical purposes, with the 30th of November effects no good purpose. It was originally introduced to expedite the publication of the returns but has had no marked influence in that direction, and merely disassociates British Columbia from the practice followed in all other countries and leads to endless confusion. For instance, the returns of tonnage made by gold commissioners and published in the annual report do not agree with the official returns given by the Department, the 31 days of December accounting for the difference. But the ordinary

reader does not appreciate such niceties and is apt to disregard both sets of figures as inaccurate. A monthly return should be made similar to that published by many mining companies based on assay values and tonnage. This should be published from month to month summarized to the end of the year and published in January as "Uncorrected Mining Statistics." These should then be checked as at present by smelter returns and incorporated in the Records of the province. This system would place the province on the same level as the United States in this matter. Within the first few days of January the director of the mint is able to give a resume of mineral production in the United States for the previous year sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes as a guide to investors in mines and dealers in the metals. The province of British Columbia requires above all things a good credit. The credit of the province is vitally affected by every ton of ore taken out, that is provided, and as soon as, the outside world knows what is being done in the way of production. The knowledge of an expanding mining industry means an expanding provincial credit. Yet many seem to think that the more the facts of our growth in this respect can be hidden the better it is for us. May we hope that at the forthcoming session of the legislature some steps will be taken to reform the practice of the province in the matter of mining statistics.

The Rossland ore shipments for the first 26 days of the year total 24,298 tons. For the whole month of January, 1900, they were 24,933 tons. January, 1900, however, was not exceeded in tonnage until the month of September, whereas in January, 1901, shipments have been restricted by lack of smelting facilities. We have on Mr. Macdonald's own authority the statement that the output from the Le Roi alone can easily be maintained at between 20,000 and 30,000 tons a month, which with the remarkable activity shown among the other mines would raise the total output to very remarkable figures. This expansion in the output of the Le Roi is not expected to take place before about the 1st of March. Continual washouts on the railway south of Northport have placed vexatious delays in the way of completing the enlargement of the smelter. Among the most satisfactory features in connection with this month's operations in the Rossland district, is the beginning of shipments from the Velvet mine. These shipments cannot in the nature of things be regular, as the mine is dependent on a waggon road at whose lower end snow is neither plentiful nor long continued, whereas mud is both plentiful and long continued. But they are a welcome indication of what may be expected from the development of the Sophie Mountain camp. The outlook for the Rossland district is as particularly bright at the beginning of this year as it was particularly gloomy at the commencement of last year.

The coal and coke situation in the mining districts of the province has been affected by the coal famine in Montana, Idaho and Utah accentuated by a coal-miners' strike in Colorado. It has been difficult for the Crows' Nest Coal Company to provide enough coal and coke to meet the expanding demands of the mines and smelters. And it has besides an open market for coal and coke in the United States in excess of what it can produce. Fortunately the difficulty