

Obituary.*John Bates.*

One of British Columbia's pioneer mining men died recently in the person of John Bates, who was well-known among prospectors and operators of the Kootenay and Boundary districts of this Province as well as in Alaska. On leaving the American Army, Mr. Bates migrated to Nelson, B.C., which he made headquarters while prospecting the adjacent country. Subsequently he journeyed to Alaska and the Yukon among the placer grounds, of which he roamed for several years. He then returned to the interior of British Columbia, where he has since lived. He was about 70 years of age, and a native of Ireland.

Silver Standard.

With the mine again on a shipping basis and the plant in operation, the Silver Standard property, Glen Mountain, Omineca, is expected to be active. Work was resumed on the 1st of May. This is one of the largest producers of silver, lead, and zinc of northern British Columbia, and is gratifying to know that arrangements as to freight rates, treatment of concentrates at the smelter, etc., have been satisfactorily concluded, and that there is every prospect of clear sailing for the management. W. G. Norrie-Loewenthal, the manager of the mine, who, of course, has returned to his duties, had a conference with General Stewart, D. McLeod, and Angus Stewart, some of the chief owners, while on the coast and states that they have every confidence in the future of the property and of the district, it being their opinion that other producing properties would be developed in the vicinity.

The O. B. U.

The "One Big Union" is much to the fore in the Canadian West. The idea of such an organization started with the Calgary Convention of the Federation of Labor and since has been discussed by practically every union in the West and, if reports are to be credited, has been generally endorsed, so that nothing remains but to give it effect. Among the leaders in the Crowsnest Pass Coal District it is, of course, the leading subject of discussion. Recently John Potter, of Fernie, and a member of one of the Locals, District 18, U.M.W. of A. addressed a meeting at Trail, B.C., held under the auspices of Trail Union No. 105, International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, his theme being the One Big Union. He was on a mission, it was explained, to obtain members for the O. B. U. one of the primary objects of which was to secure a six-hour working day and a wage of \$1 per hour. He deprecated the action of the Calgary Convention in expressing sympathy by resolution with the Bolshevik doctrines, but asserted that the workingmen should get what they want by a nation-wide strike through the O. B. U.

Silver Standard.

The Silver Standard Mine is in full operation again. Ore is being taken out and development is being pushed. The Mill is handling the ore satisfactorily and a carload of zinc concentrates is ready for shipment. Lead concentrates are to be sent to Selby Smelter, San Francisco, Cal., instead of to Trail, B.C. The explanation given of this change is that the American smelter handles a lower grade of concentrates.

Federal Support for Technical Education.

Federal support for technical education aggregating ten million dollars within the next ten years, the money to be paid to the provinces is provided for in the following resolution of which notice has been given by Hon. J. A. Calder, minister of immigration and colonization: Resolved that it is expedient:

(1) To bring in a measure for the promotion of technical education in Canada.

(2) That for the purpose of promoting and assisting technical education in Canada, the following sums, aggregating ten million dollars, shall be appropriated and made available for payment out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, during each fiscal year for the period of ten years, beginning with the year ending the 31st day of March, 1920, namely: (a) During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1920, the sum of \$700,000; (b) During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1921, the sum of \$8,000,000; (c) During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1922, the sum of \$900,000; (d) During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1923, the sum of \$1,000,000; (e) During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1924, the sum of \$1,100,000 and the like sum of \$1,100,000 during each of the succeeding fiscal years until the expiration of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1929.

Such sums subject to the conditions of the proposed legislation shall be allotted and shall be paid quarterly as grants to the governments of the several provinces in proportion to the population of the said provinces respectively, as determined by the last federal census.

(3) That the grant payable to any province in any year shall not exceed the amount provided for each province by the foregoing resolutions, nor shall it exceed an amount equivalent to that which the provincial government shall expend on technical education within such year.

(4) That in determining the grant payable to any province annually no account shall be taken of any liability of expenditure incurred by the province for the acquiring of lands, the erection or improvement of any buildings, or the supplying of furnishings or equipment for any technical education institution established in the province prior to the first day of April, 1919. Then follow the terms and conditions under which the grants shall be made.

Changes in Alberta Mines Act.

Some minor changes were made in the Mines Act of the Province of Alberta at the session which came to a close a short time ago. One amendment provides that the provisions of Section 29 of the Act shall not apply to mines where coal is extracted by the process of removing all the overlying strata. Section 29 deals with the control and supervision of a mine, making it obligatory that its operations shall be under the "control and supervision" of a certified manager and laying down rules and regulations the object of which are to enforce the keeping of underground workings in such condition as will assure their being safe to workmen. Another alteration provides for the semi-monthly payment of wages in coal mines as follows: "Wages earned from the 1st to the 15th day of each month shall be paid on the first Saturday after the 26th day of the same month, and all wages earned from the sixteenth day to the end of the month shall be paid on the first Saturday after the 12th day of the following month; provided that if any of the said Saturdays is