

prise it would be to prospectors and small companies were a similar announcement to be made in British Columbia.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is experimenting with hard coal from its Bankhead colliery, near Banff, in one of its passenger locomotives running between Laggan and Canmore, Alberta, on its transcontinental line. Such advantages as comparative freedom from dust, cinders and smoke, which blacken the cars and sometimes cause passengers inconvenience and annoyance, are claimed, while a maximum of heat is obtained from this class of fuel. If it be found that greater economy is to be secured by the substitution of hard coal for the soft coal now in general use, the fire-boxes of many of the locomotives employed on the Albertan and British Columbian sections of the railway will, notwithstanding the large expense involved, be changed to meet the requirements of the more desirable class of fuel.

Last month some of the newspapers of the upper country published a forecast of what was represented as being impending trouble between the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and its employees. It was stated that the agreement between the company and the men in its employ would expire on April 1, inst., and that there would then be trouble for the company. As a matter of fact, the company's contract with its men was for three years from April 1, 1903, unless either party to that contract gave sixty days' notice on or before April 1, 1905, of intention to terminate it. No such notice was given by either party, so the contract stands. The recklessness of some newspapers in giving publicity to yarns made out of whole cloth is much to be deplored.

What is claimed to be the record for windlass hoisting in the Klondike, and probably in the world, was recently made on Gavin Gulch, near Grand Forks. In the presence of 15 other miners, who appointed judges and a timekeeper, Chas. Cook, a man weighing about 140 lb., is stated to have made good his boast that he could raise from a shaft on Gavin Gulch 50 buckets in an hour, which work ordinarily takes from three hours and a half to half a day. In an hour, less 15 seconds, Cook had hoisted 55 buckets of dirt, dragged the buckets to the edge of the dump, emptied them and returned them to the bottom of the shaft. Unfortunately, neither the depth of the shaft nor the size of the bucket used, was given in the account published in one of the Dawson papers, but the test of strength and endurance was stated to have been thoroughly genuine and well-authenticated.

Another of the fairy tales that periodically demonstrate the liveliness of imagination of a certain class of newspaper men in Vancouver was sent out from that city a week or two ago. In February we called attention to some ridiculously incorrect statements, also from Vancouver, relative to the value of the ore produced daily by the Iron Mask mine, at Kamloops,

and the Nickel Plate mine, Similkameen, respectively. The latest little fiction given publicity is thus dealt with by the *Ashcroft Journal*: "The Vancouver . . . of a few days ago came out with the startling announcement that Mr. Stuart Henderson had sold the B. C. Development properties to an English syndicate for \$1,000,000. This is part of the property together with the Maggie claim which was bonded to Mr. M. K. Rodgers for \$160,000—just \$840,000 less than \$1,000,000. Try again, friend . . ."

The known occurrence of platinum in several districts in British Columbia gives an especial interest to the information published by the United States Geological Survey and re-printed on another page, concerning the search for this metal. Last November the *MINING RECORD* printed an article on *The Occurrence of Platinum*, which quoted from published observations of Professor R. W. Brock, of the Geological Survey of Canada, and Professor James F. Kemp, of Columbia University, New York, both gentlemen having given close attention to occurrences of platinum in this province. It is to be hoped that renewed efforts will be made to recover this metal wherever it is known to occur in paying quantities in British Columbia, the demand for it being constant and increasing, especially since the Russian sources of supply have largely been unfavourably affected by the condition and fortunes of the Russian Empire.

A deputation, consisting of Mr. W. A. Galliher, M. P., Mr. J. L. Retallack (representing the Associated Silver Lead Mines, British Columbia), and Mr. Cornish (representing the Carter Lead Corroding Works), last month waited on the Hon. W. S. Fielding, Dominion Minister of Finance, and asked that the duty on corroded or white lead be increased to 30 per cent. It was pointed out that while the present duty on pig lead is 35 per cent, that on corroded lead is only 5 per cent, consequently Canada imports all its corroded or paint lead. The imposition of the higher duty asked for, and the establishment of lead corroding works, already arranged for at Montreal, will, it is contended, provide a domestic market for 8,000 or 9,000 tons of lead produced in British Columbia. The corresponding necessity for an increase in the duty on imported mixed paints was also urged. The Finance Minister promised consideration of the representations made to him.

The article on "Transportation in Mines and Systems of Power Supply," prepared for last month's *MINING RECORD* and unavoidably held over, appears this month. While British Columbia has not as yet many mines big enough to require such plant and machinery as that the use of which is advocated, in view of the rapid development of some of the metaliferous mines of the province the subjects dealt with must soon have the close attention of their respective managements. The larger collieries of British Columbia have long been using steam, air, or electricity for