

Coast District.—The most important metal mining in progress in the Coast district is that at the Britannia Mining and Smelting Company's Britannia mine, in New Westminster mining division, and the further exploitation of the Hidden Creek group, by the Granby Consolidated M. and S. Company. During the autumn up to more than 300 men were employed on the

Britannia, and within 50 or 60 of that number at Hidden Creek. Coal mining developments on Vancouver Island are also important. Information from Hazelton district, Skeena River, indicates the opening of promising shoots of silver-lead ore there.

GENERAL MINING NEWS.

ONTARIO.

[Editor's Note.—The following is editorial comment that was written too late to insert in the proper column. It is none the less important. If any of our readers think that we have been unfair we shall be glad to hear from them.]

Toronto, Nov. 24.—There appeared in the Toronto Globe of this date certain extracts from an article in The Boston Commercial. Mr. George L. Walker, the editor of The Commercial, is the author of the article, and his subject is Porcupine.

From his own account Mr. Walker went to Porcupine to find out whether the camp is or is not a bubble. The net result of his visit was that he came away satisfied that Porcupine has a "big future." A few sentences here will show the tenor of Mr. Walker's remarks.

He points out that for work done there are surprisingly many gold showings of commercial value. Diamond drills have disclosed "free gold" (by which is meant "visible gold") to a depth of 800 feet. He refers to the Dome as having several million dollars of "profits demonstrated"; and to the Hollinger as having about 100,000 tons of ore actually in sight.

Both of these statements are undigested. There is no room for guessing and less cause for knowing that the Dome has some millions of dollars in profits developed. In fact, the Dome management has made public nothing to indicate this. Moreover, the Hollinger, if we may gather anything from the announcements of its directorate, has much more than 100,000 tons in sight. To put it briefly, there is no more foundation for Mr. Walker's conclusions than there is for the wildest vision of the cub reporter.

But with Mr. Walker's strictures on financial and promotion methods we are fully in accord. After scoring the futile schemes of floating the average "claim," he expresses the belief that Porcupine's future depends upon underground exploration, and upon the development of large tonnages of ore that will yield from \$1 to \$3 net profit. Porcupine, to succeed, must be organized much more conservatively. Working capital must be enlarged, and promoters' first profits must be cut down.

Mr. Walker's remarks would have been immeasurably stronger if he had left out specific references that weaken his argument, and tend to throw discredit upon his ability to observe without bias.

Ottawa, Nov. 22.—The first organized demand for higher protection for the vested interests was presented to the Government to-day by the representatives of all the steel and iron companies in Canada. The conference lasted over two hours. The companies applied for a renewal of the bounties on pig iron as a provisional expedient to be effective until the tariff could be revised.

The discussion was almost entirely confined to this application. The question of aid by bounty to steel rods will be dealt with at another time.

The Government gave the steel men a sympathetic hearing and asked for statistical information. The members of the Government who heard the deputation were: Premier Borden, Finance Minister White, Minister of Customs Reid, Minister of Trade and Commerce Foster, Minister of Railways Cochrane, and Postmaster-General Pelletier.

Among the men on the delegation and the companies represented were J. H. Plummer, of the Dominion Steel; T. Cantley, of the Nova Scotia Steel; T. J. Drummond, of the Soo Company; Cyrus Birge, of the Steel Company of Canada, Hamilton; R. Hobson, and R. J. Mercure, representing the Deseronto Blast Furnace and the Atikokan Iron Company.

The Government was urged to take up the whole case of the iron and steel industry in Canada, and after thorough consideration to give it the aid by bounty or tariff protection to which it was found to be entitled. The steel men assured the Government that the industry in Canada to-day is at a disadvantage, compared with its competitors in other countries. There should be something done before an examination of the situation could be made. To relieve the immediate situation it was urged that there should be a restoration of the bounty on pig iron.

While the Government gave the steel men no promise beyond careful consideration of their application, the general belief is that something will be done. That is the feeling which the steel men have themselves, and it is shared by most members of Parliament.

QUEBEC.

Mr. R. M. Aitken, of the London house of Kilcat & Aitken, arrived in Montreal on November 20th, in connection with the contemplated reorganization of Amalgamated Asbestos.

"We hope," he said, "to get matters in such shape that the representatives of the bondholders will soon be able to get together and discuss plans for the future welfare of the company. I feel sure that the American, Canadian, and English representatives, when they meet to talk things over, will be able to work in harmony and will decide upon an arrangement that will put the company upon its feet again."

Montreal, Nov. 20.—One of the most important meetings ever held by the directors of the Dominion Steel Corporation was held this afternoon at the Bank of Commerce. The president, Mr. J. H. Plummer, occupied the chair, and the directors present were: Sir William Mackenzie, Sir Montagu Allan, William McMaster, George Caverhill, Sir Henry Pellatt, Senator Cox, Senator MacKay, Senator Dandurand, J. R. Silson, W. D. Matthews, and F. L. Wanklyn.

After the meeting the following official statement was given out: "The chief subject considered by the Board of the Steel Corporation to-day was the recommendation of the president that the Steel Company should not continue to provide for the expenditure on its new plant by the sale of bonds, which were