

employees who were on 12-hour shifts. Accordingly the Canadian Smelting Works, at Trail, a few weeks ago, arranged for 8-hour shifts for all its smelter men previously working longer hours. Next the Hall Mining & Smelting Co., Nelson, announced its arrangements in a similar direction. Now the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Co., operating the largest copper smelter in Canada, with works at Grand Forks, has come to an understanding with its men on this question. The final agreement, the result of negotiations between the local management and the men, is to the effect that there will be three shifts of 8 hours each per diem, and that all smelter employees receiving more than \$2.50 per day (the amount paid labourers for a 10-hour day) shall submit to a reduction of 10 per cent in wages. Mechanics who have been working 10-hour shifts will continue to do so, except on Saturdays, when 8 hours will constitute their day's work. Other smelters in the province will, no doubt, come to somewhat similar agreements with their employees, and a question that was at one time regarded as likely to lead to labour difficulties will thus have been amicably settled.

The treatment of the low-grade copper ores of the Graham mine, at Massey, Ontario, Canada, by the Elmore oil process of concentrating has proved a great success. The plant was installed at this mine to treat the tailings from the usual water concentration plant, and has given such excellent results that the water concentration plant has been abandoned altogether, and the Elmore oil plant is now being doubled in capacity. The Massey Station Copper Co., which has been operating the mine for the last three years, has expended £60,000 upon it during the experimental stage, and the venture is now on a sound commercial basis. From a 3 per cent. ore a concentrate of 20 per cent standard is turned out.

The directors of the Vancouver Island Mining & Development Co., have decided to make a further issue of shares for the purpose of purchasing and opening up a group of mineral claims the local director, Mr. Clermont Livingston, has acquired on behalf of the company. These shares are being first offered at par (£1) to present shareholders in the company on the following terms: 5s. per share on application, 5s. on allotment, and two instalments of 5s. each to be called up as and when required. A report of the proceedings at the third annual meeting of the company is printed elsewhere in this issue. It is pleasing to note that the competence and zealous services of the local director and manager are much appreciated by the shareholders in England, who have full confidence in Mr. Livingston as a man who, in the words of the chairman, "is fully alive to the local situation and quite capable of looking after the interests of the company." The capitalisation of the company is moderate—£50,000, of which only a portion has been issued. The company owns a large group of mineral claims on Mount Sicker, all paid for, and it has not had its resources weakened by the payment of promotion profits, all its claims having been transferred to it at the prices actually paid for them by its local repre-

sentative. Further, it is carefully and economically managed, so that its chances of eventual success are correspondingly good.

The Minister of Mines for New Zealand in the course of his address to the legislature of that colony on the occasion of his presenting his Annual Mines Statement made the following reference to scheelite: "The demand for this mineral is increasing. Hitherto it has been prepared for the market almost, if not quite exclusively, by Messrs. Donaldson Bros., of Macrae's, Otago, but the demand being now more than they can supply, action is being taken by other mine-owners in the same locality with a view to meeting requirements. Inquiries for scheelite containing a fairly high percentage of tungstic acid have reached the colony from England and elsewhere. It is evident that a ready market is available for a steady supply of this mineral." Reports of the occurrence of scheelite in both Cariboo and Slocan districts have been published during the two years last past, but it does not appear that development work of sufficient importance to turn the discoveries to profitable account has yet been done. It may be that capital is not available for opening up the claims on which the mineral is known to occur, or, in the case of the Cariboo property, the absence of cheap transportation facilities may be a serious obstacle, but whatever the difficulty it is to be hoped that it may soon be overcome so that the scheelite, if it occur in commercial quantities, may be added to the mineral products of British Columbia.

The description of the Britannia mines and concentrating works at Howe Sound, B.C., we publish this month will, we have no doubt, be of interest to many of our readers. The somewhat lengthy geological observations of Mr. Ellis Mallery, for the use of which we are indebted to the courtesy of that gentleman, although made in 1903 and in part previously published, are included in our descriptive article for the reason that we have assurances from men qualified to express an opinion of value that Mr. Mallery's conclusions are in many respects reasonable and well grounded. This being so, we have pleasure in making them readily accessible to all interested in this subject. Concerning the practical side of the Britannia Copper Syndicate's undertakings—the visitor cannot but be strongly impressed with its importance. The opening up of the enormous masses of ore occurring on the company's property has necessarily been delayed until ample provision had been made for power for operating the mine on a comparatively large scale, transporting the ore to deep water, and concentrating and smelting a tonnage that may be expected to steadily increase until it shall reach big proportions. The fact that Mr. Geo. H. Robinson, who is the executive head of this enterprise, has given the Britannia property much attention for years and, consequently, is operating it along lines that are the outcome of careful testing and mature deliberation, suggest a profitable future for the company. We earnestly hope that in due time we shall have the pleasure of chronicling