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THE

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A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CASSIAR.

VOL. I.

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No. 1

SALUTATORY.

We will not pretend to argue that the interests of the people of Victoria demand the publication of a third paper in this community; although we might, with a fair show of reason, offer this as an excuse for our appearance. We will not even presume to solicit a share of that patronage which has for years flowed so uninterruptedly into the pockets of our two big contemporaries. But taking the head line which appears under the title we have assumed, as suggestive of the object which calls us into existence, we believe our mission to be a legitimate one; and in making our bow before the public we announce it as our intention to watch carefully and persistently the proceedings of the present Legislative Assembly in behalf of the mining district of Cassiar; a district which, although as regards revenue and population, forms no inconsiderable portion of this great Dominion, is to-day without a representative—without a voice in the councils of the country, and as completely ignored and isolated as if its people were a colony of imbecile savages whom no law could benefit and no mission christianize. We are fully conscious of the task before us; but keeping constantly in view the object of our mission, we intend our course to be honest and straightforward. We confess, to a certain de-

gree, our ignorance of parliamentary usages and the workings of legislative bodies. We know little of Court etiquette and care less. We admit our inability to follow correctly the labyrinth of lines which divide the political opinions of those who to-day are occupying seats in the Legislative Assembly as the representatives of the people; but coming as we do from a district whose teachings are the teachings of nature—whose principles are written on mountain, rock and stream, and where men's lives are judged by their actions and dealings with their fellow-men, we are, perhaps, as capable of distinguishing between right and wrong, of holding the balance of justice as evenly as any of the gentlemen who are the authorized occupants of seats in the hall over James Bay. And when it comes to "washing up" and sluicing the precious metal from that useless dross so well known to all miners, we will not even admit our equal. It will therefore be seen that our duty shall be to pan out the actions of the present Legislature and cast aside the black sand, no matter on which side it is found. Our reporters will fill the galleries, and day and night the shift shall be kept on and the watch remain unbroken. We may be severe in our criticisms of the actions of members, but being the representative of straight forward matter-of-fact men, and when in the opinion of our constituents we fail to be just, we expect not merely to resign our position as conductor of this journal, but that the editorial chair shall be pulled from under us in such a manner as to leave no inclination on our part ever to resume it.