

Our contemporary, *Iron Ore*, published at Ishpeming, Michigan, in a recent issue, very properly denounces a fraudulent undertaking known as the Labourers' Co-operative Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Company of British Columbia. The secretary-treasurer of this concern is a pious individual named Nylin, by trade a Baptist preacher. This person has issued a number of circulars in which in very glowing terms he describes certain prospects the concern has got hold of near Sicamous as mines of great value, at which there are hundreds of thousands of tons ready for shipment, and that the company proposes to erect a smelter without delay to treat this ore, which is also marvellously rich. The circular makes delightfully quaint reading. Here is an extract: "There are some people who would advise others not to make an investment. Such is only envy—'Envy, the rottenness of the bones, as the wise Solomon says (Prov. 14:30.)' And again, 'A number of investors in our company are Swedes and most of them Christians, who are going to give their dividends to assist missionary work.' That, in fact, is Mr. Nylin's object, he tells us, in turning company promoter, that he may raise enough money to go out and teach the Gospel in comfort. But he has since apparently changed his mind on this point, for we learn he is now living at great ease and splendour in Chicago, having doubtless found a sufficient number of the 'Lord's servants' to accept his special offer of 'a reduction of 10 per cent.' or an additional '\$2 in shares' for every \$20 subscribed. In addition to the undeveloped and probably quite worthless mineral claims at Sicamous, the concern has recently transferred its attention to Golden, where it is also *proposed* to establish a smelter and acquire a number of claims. A later circular states that 'shares have advanced from 5 cents to \$50,' but that as the company does not sell any of its treasury shares at present 'even if \$10 were offered,' Mr. Nylin generously proposes 'to give his friends a chance and has decided to sell some of his own shares at \$1 each. He has meanwhile founded a newspaper in his interests at Golden and has actually succeeded in imposing on some people. We have no hesitation in stating on the evidence that the Labourers' Co-operative Gold, Silver and Copper Company is a flagrant wild-cat, and that Nylin, its promoter, is a swindler of a very low and offensive type.

There seems to be fairly good proof that under normally favourable conditions gold dredging may be profitably undertaken in British Columbia. Thus from the report of one company engaged in this class of mining on the Fraser we gather that the change from a

incompetent to a competent manager resulted in a clean-up representing, instead of a loss on working expenses, a most substantial dividend on the capital invested. Unfortunately too many companies operating in the Province have not realized until too late that failure or unsatisfactory returns are largely attributable to faults of management and that is something no one can tell them. Reverting to dredging, it has now been clearly shown that the bucket dredge is the most suitable type to employ on the Fraser, and mistakes in this regard hereafter should not occur. Meanwhile, at the property leased by the company here referred to some interesting experiments were recently made by the engineer in charge in order to arrive at an idea of the distribution of gold in the river bed. In the place where he made his best hole the water was nine feet in depth; the first two feet below this gave 23 1-2 grains of gold per yard, the next two feet to grains per yard, and the next six had very low gold values, while the last six feet gave no gold at all, which seems to disprove the theory that the gold has settled down to bedrock.

We have always regarded the Ymir as one of the best managed mines in British Columbia. So it is from an engineering point of view. But whether the London management has been quite judicious is another matter. Apparently the company was forced into reconstruction as a result of the policy of applying all profits to dividends. Now that reconstruction has taken place, and a comparatively small sum of \$50,000 realized for development purposes, this same policy is to be continued. It is true the mine is in fairly good shape, since the lower tunnel connections were made, but nobody can pretend that the Ymir at present is in a secure position, and apart altogether from the question of advisability, it is open to doubt whether in the case of a mine so situated the occasional distribution of profits, which of course influences the share market, is even reasonably honest.

At the recent meeting in London of the Le Roi No. 2 Company the directors placed all the blame for the fiasco which attended last year's operation on the engineers, Messrs. Macdonald and Thompson. On a matter of record we are inclined to think that Messrs. Macdonald and Thompson would make a better showing than most of the gentlemen drawing fat fees as directors of the Le Roi No. 2 and such other concerns in which the movements of the Stock Exchange are more carefully considered than the condition of the mine.