

British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I Am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

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As the mineral resources of Canada are now receiving much deserved attention, in all parts of the Dominion, and interest therein having been aroused in the various financial centres of the world, the success or failure of those venturing into the legitimate business of mining is governed chiefly by two contingencies. We would draw your serious consideration to these, which are of vital importance to you in a matter of mining.

First, It goes without saying that the first act in the business is to secure Ore; next, to know that there is a sufficient quantity on your property to warrant an expenditure in working it, and the further fact that it has a value over and above that which is required for its extraction.

Second, as to Treatment. This is so important with the finding of ore, and it is well-known that ore without an available source of obtaining the values, at the minimum of cost, is practically worthless. This is the present condition of affairs over a very extensive section of Canada.

The absence of an economical process that can be applied to all grades and classes of the mineral deposits of the country being largely responsible for the exceedingly limited development up to the present time.

It cannot be denied that the stamp mill process, cumbersome, expensive to erect, and very limited in operations, is not adapted to the successful working of Canadian ores. This is shown by the great and continuous efforts made from time to time to get at something that will give the miner a fair return for his labor and outlay of capital, but so far with very poor success.

There has been the "Cyanide," "Chlorination," "Lixiviation," etc., and others innumerable, none of which have filled the requirements, nor, indeed, can they from the nature and variety of mineral in the ores, as none of these processes are suitable to the general character and grade of ores found in Canada, but are all, more or less, limited to class and quality of ore, rendering them aliko unprofitable in results, and expensive in operation.

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