

the case of others who send direct for the catalogues that are dutiable they may never reach their destination should some lynx-eyed customs officer happen to pounce upon them.

The whole system is wrong and should be changed in the interest of our mining industry.

The tariff as it stands now is not only a hindrance to the development of our mines, but it also acts as an injustice to the Canadian manufacturers. The latter have to pay a very heavy tax on the iron they import, which, we understand, comes in most instances from the United States.

The Canadian manufacturer is therefore handicapped and prevented from competing advantageously with his American neighbors. The mine owner, however, has to pay the piper in the end, for it cannot be expected that the manufacturer will throw off the duty on iron in order to give the benefit to the purchaser of machinery.

This question of duty on iron and on machinery is one of great importance to the mining industry, and whichever political party is returned to power the abolition of duties on iron and machinery ought to be pressed by those who are interested in seeing a rapid development of our mines.

There are indications that all sorts of snares are being laid to entrap the unwary into investing in mining shares. All we can say is that people having money to invest in this way should not only be most careful whom they employ, but they should also investigate fully the character of investments offered them. What is termed "inside information," as advertised is not always to be depended upon.

Victoria is still struggling with the problem of keeping two stock exchanges running. It wont work. There is not room for two such institutions in the capital city, and the sooner the business men make up their minds to this fact the better it will be. The first, or original stock exchange has been in operation for a short time. Three or four brokers put in an appearance each day—shares are called but no transactions of any moment take place. The promoters of the exchange, so far, do not put in an appearance, and if it were not for the brokers in question the whole thing would collapse. The second exchange, it is to be hoped, will show more vigor than its rival, but the best thing to be done is to consolidate the two into one.

We are desirous of seeing a stock exchange in proper working order in Vancouver and one in Victoria. These

institutions, if properly carried on, will act as a safeguard to investors. Why our mining men do not take more interest in their establishment is to us a matter of surprise and, we think, hardly creditable to them. In the meantime our newspapers are being flooded by broker's advertisements offering mining shares at all sorts of imaginable figures—"inside information" is freely offered to guide the unwary, and before we know where we are mining investments in British Columbia will fall into disrepute.

New finds are being made almost daily, and it begins to look as if the whole Province was underlaid with the precious metals. Alberni, about which there was a doubt in the minds of some not long ago, is now proving to be one of the richest camps in British Columbia. Along the coast several valuable discoveries have recently been made, and in Lillooet a wonderfully rich find, as will be seen by the description elsewhere, has been made.

There is no doubt about the treasure being here,—what is wanted is capital to gather it in and turn it to account.

At Ashcroft extra stages and conveyances are being put to use to carry the large number of passengers going into the upper (or Cariboo) country. Freight teams are kept busy on the road and everything points to a season of unusual activity. The news from the different mines is most satisfactory and it is reasonable to expect that the output of gold will be very large during the present year. Much, of course, has yet to be done in the way of erecting machinery, building of ditches, and laying of flumes, pipes, etc.; but the work in this direction carried out last year will show results this season.

That the upper country is wonderfully rich has been demonstrated without a doubt. Although millions of dollars have been taken out of it in years past, the ground has only been skimmed over and the great yields are yet to come. The confidence in its richness of those who know the country is most assuring, and that some great finds will be made in Cariboo in the near future is looked upon as certain.

In the Okanagan country capitalists are showing their confidence by investing largely, and there are not a few who look upon mining in that district as one of the most promising propositions in the Province.

As for Kootenay, its name has already become world famous, and the constant discoveries of rich veins show that the whole district is one vast camp of mineral wealth.