

Lord's Day Alliance helping a new mining camp to remove the human carrion that so often soils its skirts. That task is left to public spirited citizens.

Were it worth while, which it distinctly is not, we could point out to the Alliance several channels in which it might forget about ice-cream. We fear, however, that the gentlemen in charge of its vagaries are too detached from real life to grasp the most significant hint. But we most humbly request them to ponder long before they interfere with men who have the good of the nation quite as much at heart as has the Alliance, and whose only fault is that they must continue to be controlled by common sense.

PORCUPINE AT PRESENT.

Porcupine is in a transition stage. Snow has fallen. The rivers and lakes will soon be frozen strongly enough to warrant heavy traffic. Navigation has already ceased. And now, with local transportation charges reduced to a reasonable figure, machinery and supplies can be rushed in as required.

But the snow brings with it not only relief to the operators, but also that type of promoter that can be denominated the "snow-bird." He it is who, availing himself of Canada's winter mantle, becomes the centre of flurries in shares—shares whose value evaporates with the spring sun. The "snow-bird" is always in season and should be shot on sight.

Our remarks in our last issue on Ontario's duty to Porcupine were based upon the fact that the present Government has reaped a rich harvest from the north-land. The auction sales of Cobalt Lake and other properties, and the imposition of royalties have swelled the provincial exchequer. The Government cannot confine itself to the passive role of receiver. It has invited the public to take chances; it cannot refuse to take a few chances itself. The rule works both ways. Hence it is obligatory upon the Government to support and assist Porcupine operators in all legitimate ways. The most important need at present is for postal, railway, and telegraphic communication. The spring will bring other needs.

In the wake of every successful enterprise in Porcupine will follow a number of doubtful or worthless projects. This is a law of human nature. Sometimes unwisdom, sometimes crookedness is the prevailing factor. For the interested outsider it should be easy to distinguish between spurious and genuine publicity. Advertisement seldom is indicative of merit.

Beside the multitudinous optioning and giving in options; the vast volume of hotel talk; the hurrying and scurrying of purchasers, and go-betweens, and vendors; there is solid thoughtful work being done in Porcupine. Never before has an Ontario field offered so much professional employment to reputable engineers. Never

before have cautious investors shown such willingness to put money promptly into a Canadian mining camp. Thus a strong backbone has been created at the stage when it is most needed.

Over and above the expenditure in development and equipment, other large projects are on foot. Certain of the most enterprising operators, the Timmins—McMartin—Dunlap group, are providing for the development and distribution of hydro-electric power. Private capital is tackling railway construction, though in a somewhat farcical manner. Machinery companies are making strong efforts to place equipment. Supply houses in Toronto even now feel the benefit of Porcupine money. The telegraph companies are in clover and hotels are doing a rushing business.

Ore treatment has been the subject of much experiment. On one large property it has been practically decided to cut out concentration, and to cyanide direct after the stamps. Here much of the schist is heavily impregnated with sulphides. On others where the ore is relatively free from sulphides, concentration will probably be part of the flow-sheet. Fully one hundred and fifty stamps are being or are about to be ordered. This number will be multiplied indefinitely in the near future.

As in Goldfields, Nevada, so in Porcupine, the disintegrated material affords the best panning. In the early days of Goldfield the gold pan was not a usual part of the prospector's outfit. In Porcupine the pan is perhaps too much in evidence. Except in experienced hands it is misleading. At best it gives but a qualification idea of the gold content.

Numerous transactions are under way and are being closed or dropped every day. The nomadic engineer, the speculator, the adventurer, the ubiquitous newspaper correspondent are all in evidence. Everyone is taking a turn at option-mongering. Money is being spent feverishly—especially by the lesser fry. Possibly a boom is impending. We hope not. In any case, much of the interest that is now aroused is distinctly susceptible of good use. Clean publicity never does harm. Exaggeration never does good.

Porcupine means much to mining in general. Its successful exploitation will set capital flowing in all directions and will create additional capital. We intend to make every effort to keep our readers informed as to its progress. This does not imply neglect of other districts. On the contrary, it will do good all round.

GOLD IN QUEBEC.

One of the first authentic discoveries of gold in the Province of Quebec was made by a young girl, Claudine Gilbert, in 1834. She came upon a nugget of gold as