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MINING CRAZE

Everybody in British Columbia appear to be infected with the mining fever, all sorts and conditions of men seem to have caught it. Clergymen and dissenting ministers have resigned their sacred office to engage in mining business, and one of the latter lately a distinguished light in the Weslayn pulpit bids fair to the equally famous as a mining broker, There is hardly a single storekeeper who does not own at least one claim, and the amount of style which children put on because their father has a gold mine, is amusing to those who know the difference between a claim and a mine, 'But here as Dr.

"Every prospect pleases."

A local preacher lately got carried away in the pulpit, and produced an entirely original effect, by giving the up to date version of the text--" But I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not assayed like one of these." There is not a portion of the province which is devoid of mineral and every day produces new claims and new development companies. It is needless to say that many of the claims are as worthless as some of the companies. equally true that there are already discovered claims which when developed will attract the capital of the world, and companies with directors and experts whose reputation is such as to inspire confidence in financial circles both of Europe and Ame, ica.

SMELTER PLANT.

No law is better recognized than that relating to supply and demand. Where the latter exists the former very soon makes its appearance and quickly fills vacuum. The smelter proposition has become a most serious and important one to Vancouver as well as Victoria. In fact, there is not a newspaper, daily, weekly or monthly, published in British Columbia which does not contain in it references to some smelters: smelters wanted, smelters in course of construction, smelters proposed, yes, and smelters abandoned.

The following article from the Western Mining World is of general application and comes right to business:

"The city of Victoria wants a smelter plant, and wants it so had that it is willing to give a bonns of \$150,000 for one. Our opinion is that when it becomes necessary to bonus any institution there is but very little use for it. is this true of smelter plants. becomes necessary to have a smelter in any community it will be built, as the men who manage the business of mining are about as keen a set of fellows as the world possesses. There is no question but what a smelter or two will be built on the British seaboard in the near future, as the mineral resources are every day becoming a certainty, and thus there will be no necessity of bonusing a set of boomers into building a smelter

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