

# THE SEARCHLIGHT.

—ISSUED BY—

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## UNDEVELOPED MINERAL CLAIMS.

The following from the San Francisco Call is somewhat applicable to British Columbia. The practice alluded to obtains to a greater or less extent in every mining camp:

"When a man is new at mining he is apt to take up more ground than he can properly handle. . . . There is scarcely anything worse than having a whole lot of ground in a camp held by a few men, who just manage to do assessment work each year and no more. The result is that none of the claims are properly developed or brought to such a stage as to invite inspection from those who might be purchasers. The mining laws are complied with simply because they have to be, but men holding claims in this way are apt to rely more on the results of the labour of their neighbours than on their own exertions. This sort of thing is not honest mining. Men who hold claims in this way prevent others from working the ground they have, and yet they do not work it themselves. There seems to be no way to prevent men acquiring larger locations than they can handle. A 1,500 foot location on a ledge ought to be enough for anybody, but the class of men referred to take up a dozen rich locations, and then use the names of others on the continuations of the ledges to acquire more. Such men do more harm than good to a camp. They keep it back, because they keep out men who would do actual development and not mere assessment work. The latter is enforced, of course, or even that little would not be done. If, instead of scattering their work in a dozen or so places, prospectors would concentrate their efforts on one claim, and open it properly, they would bring it to a proper condition for a sale of some value to them and to the camp. There are plenty of 'claim-poor' miners all over the country, who will never get any better off until they drop some of their superfluous holdings and put all their work and energies into one or two."—Victoria, B.C., "Province."

## ADVERTISER AND READER.

A consideration of the merits of this number of the Searchlight, both by advertisers and readers, should bring them to the same conclusion which many persons have already arrived at that the Searchlight is just what was wanted, being something new and different to the general run of weekly or monthly Journals.

We commend our columns to advertisers as being a good field for investment. Our subscription rate is an attraction and as a consequence many subscribers are thereby obtained.

Going over a broad plane of thought, the Searchlight will appeal to more than one class of readers, and for this and other reasons advertising should pay in the Searchlight. Our next issue will be better in every way, and possibly may be enlarged upon.

## A THANKFUL SOUL.

Perry Patettic—The Lord is purty good to the human race, even you and me.

Wayworn Watson—I'd like fer to know how?

Well, for instant, in making us so we kin swaller our beer down. S'pose we had to go to the exertion of swallerin' up, like the horse does water?

## WHY SO SLOW?

By W.A.D.

A little over a quarter of a century ago the people of Canada came into possession of a heritage, sufficient, amply sufficient, to make every family in the country rich. Probably we are quite within the estimate when we say that there were upwards of two hundred acres of fertile land for every family in the Dominion. That added to mineral deposits, forest wealth and other advantages should have guaranteed such a good share of the riches of this world that Canada should have been one of the most attractive countries in the world for the emigrant.

We have good reason to ask why it is that the poverty stricken toilers of the old world did not rush to this clime to enjoy a share in our advantages.

The answer to this question is not hard to find. Several blunders were made and it is difficult to say which is the worst.

First, in the method of taxation. The man who settles and improves the country is the man who brings prosperity. The man who obtains land not to improve but to speculate is the man who retards the growth of the country. Unfortunately the latter is the man who was encouraged, for as fast as the settler cleared an acre or put up a building, just so soon were his taxes increased and the speculator's taxes necessarily diminished. The taxation discriminated against the improver. And this discrimination produced several bad effects. It scattered settlement, making it much more difficult to build schools, roads and other public conveniences. It induced the holders of land on the outskirts of the cities to keep the land unoccupied; so that Winnipeg for some time was reported to be like a city surrounded by a desert.

The second blunder was the railway policy. How much the Canadian Pacific Railway is to cost the people of Canada no one can tell. A hundred million dollars is the figure often mentioned, but that is only a moderate estimate. It was built also in such a way as to cause scattered settlements and to intensify the evil of speculation. At the same time there was handed over to the railway company a territory equal in size to the whole of Ireland and all the cultivated part of Scotland. Then having given such extraordinary gifts to this company, they were secured in a monopoly of the traffic so that in many cases the settler in Canada had to pay higher rates than his neighbor across the line. And then to add to the accumulated folly, the tariff was so arranged as to make the railroad of much more use to the foreigner than to the Canadian settler; for such duties were imposed on commodities landed in Canada that goods if from Japan or China could be landed cheaper in London, England, than in Toronto.

If there ever was a country in which it was folly to establish a protective tariff it was Canada. With an Arctic barrier of snow and ice to cut off all communication to the North, what could be more foolish than to cut ourselves off even partially round the rest of the country by taxes imposed not for revenue but to stop trade, as if trade was a curse! This tariff should have been entitled "An act specially designed to punish men for being farmers." The farmers are par excellence the exporters. They send goods to foreign markets and when their returns come back then the government ruthlessly takes twenty or thirty per cent. of these returns for taxes. Is it any wonder that the farmer in the loneliness of frontier settlement finds himself so discouraged that he does not write glowing letters to his friends at home urging them to come and settle near him? To leave these abuses in full operation and then to send out emigration agents would be the supremest folly. Remove that idiotic thing called a tariff and stop taxing people for doing their duty to their country by improving it as much as they can; place the taxes so as forever to abolish mischievous speculation; take for public purposes the values caused by the growth and organization of society, and then the abounding prosperity of this country will be sufficiently attractive to draw all the emigrants we want.

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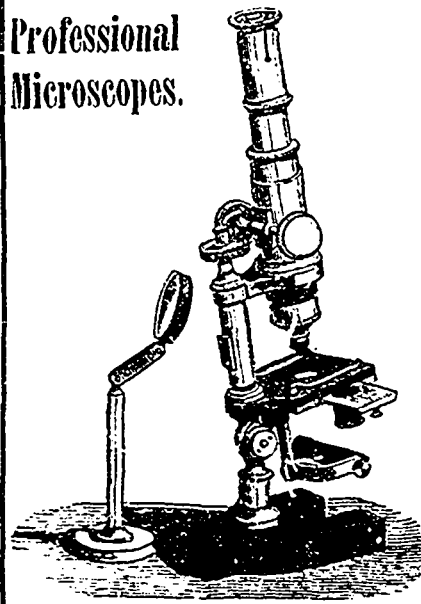
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