

also cases of Mongol overcrowding in both Vancouver and Victoria; though in each of the latter cities occasional raids are made upon overcrowded Chinese tenements. The work of supervision is, however, too intermittent for full and effective enforcement of the cubic air space and other sanitary by-laws, which the Celestials and some also of their Jap kinsfolk continually infringe.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Hewitt Bostock, M. P., is a very sanguine man, and has a better opinion than most of us, as to the generosity of the United States. He lately based his support of the Yukon railroad contract largely on the assumption that our friends to the south would soon find it advisable to remove all impediments to Canadian and general travel up and along the Stickine river.

It is a good thing just now for a man to have been recently an explorer of Alaska, and in consequence the writer of a sensational book on the subject. An instance in point is that of Mr. Harry de Windt, of London, Eng., who after first describing Alaska and the Yukon as an awful country, and deprecating considerably, generally high estimates placed on its gold values, has experienced a complete change of mind and become a prominent organizer of a company, which makes lavish use of his name and fame, being styled the "De Windt Exploration Company, Limited."

The Western Mining World, a note from which is quoted in another column, seems to think that the ridiculous Yukon news items which are cabled to the London Standard, are inserted by collusion of the paper with brokers of a doubtful class, desirous of floating wild-cat mine ventures. The Standard and other great London dailies are, however, above any such treachery, and the Standard's frequent insertion of ridiculously inflated reports of Yukon gold finds is simply ascribable to sub-editorial ignorance and lack of adequate editorial supervision of the telegraph news columns. The lying reports on which the cables are based are first, however, fabricated either in New York or Seattle.

The De Windt Exploration Company, Limited, is capitalized in no less than £250,000, and is to obtain from an organization known as the Explorers' and Travelers' Company, Limited, a quarter share in two claims on El Dorado creek, in another on Bonanza creek, and in four others on Hunker creek, and the site of a wharf, store and hotel at Port Wrangel, together with certain water and riprarian rights in the same Alaska town. For these properties the Explorers' and Travelers' Company, Limited, are getting £40,000, of which they take £83,333 in shares and the goodly balance in cash. Even allowing for the valu-

able services of Mr. De Windt, secured for five years as an explorer and prospector, we would certainly rather be at the Explorers' and Travelers' end of the bargain, than that of the De Windt Exploration Company, although the latter includes in its board a well-known English sportsman and former hunting man in Alaska in the person of the Earl of Lonsdale. The noble earl is, as all the world knows, more of a sportsman than a man of affairs. Hence, on the whole, the investors of the De Windt Exploration Company are to take big risks. Mr. De Windt is, by the bye, one of the fortunate vendors, being a leading stockholder of the Explorers' and Travelers' Company, Limited.

NEWSPAPER AIDS TO SWINDLING.

A general protest is going up from British Columbia and adjacent sections against the efforts of the London press to promote fraud in mining deals. Through some sub-rosa arrangement with dishonest brokers the most absurd statements as to mineral finds are published without editorial qualification, thus leading the uninformed to invest liberally in wild-cat mining operations. As an illustration of this the London Standard recently published a cablegram to the effect that certain quartz samples from the Klondike, when beaten out on an anvil, showed a value of \$300,000 in gold to the ton!

The ignorant or enthusiastic asses on the London press would doubtless cheerfully announce the finding of a mountain of pure gold, where the precious metal could be sliced off like cheese all ready for the government stamp. Having, by a course of vile exaggerations, built up public opinion into the belief that the Klondike exceeds the wildest experiences of Sinbad the Sailor and his cave of diamonds, they now have little difficulty in showing that discoveries to match have been made. Thus the great bunco-steering game goes on. When the reaction comes it will be impossible to enlist foreign capital in mining enterprises of merit in this or any other country. The pendulum will swing the other way.—Western Mining World.

A FAKE STORY TRAVELS.

The absurd fiction stating that the party headed by Mr. Behnsen, late of Victoria, gathered in one day \$50,000 worth of Klondike gold, has now reached London, Eng., and been given an immense circulation by the Daily Mail. It will probably induce hundreds of unfortunate Britons to make for the far north under fallacious hopes of fortune. The story, though in London ascribed to a Victoria correspondent, really emanated in Vancouver, and is, it is needless to say, quite without foundation in fact. Mr. Behnsen and his friends had at last accounts won little or no gold, though they were fairly hopeful as to their prospects.