

H. C. Ludorf. . . . .

Fl. De Keyser Verbiest. . . . .

**De Keyser's  
Placer  
Amalgamator  
Manufacturing  
Company**

OFFICE : 417 Cordova Street,

Vancouver, B. C.

*OUR MACHINES ARE  
LIGHT, COMPACT, OF  
GREAT CAPACITY,  
AND SPECIALLY AD-  
APTED TO THE  
WORKING OF TAIL-  
INGS OF HYDRAULIC  
MINES GENERALLY*

Full Particulars sent on

line, and the result is that a claim purporting to have a big lode giving good assays, passes from the barber or logger prospector into the hands of the broker and is incorporated for an immense figure, although the first cost has only been a few hundred dollars. No investigation of the property has taken place by any mining man, but the shares are offered to a too confiding public at a few cents on the dollar and it is plainly seen that the public are gaining a first and costly experience in mining. In no other country in the world, where mining is carried on, would the public have been so easily gulled as they are in B.C. Is it surprising then that severe relapses are taking place. The press, with very few exceptions, has systematically supported the various incorporations and misled the public by optimistic statements in connection with one and all claims incorporated. But as in the instance of the prospector and broker, so has it been with the press representatives, most of whom have been as ignorant of mining in all its branches as the prospector and broker, have accepted absurd statements of different values and they so inflated the rubbish floating about, that the public have taken things in trust without investigation. The leading papers should surely now see fit to employ competent mining men to act as representatives when visiting mining camps. Had they done this in the first instance, there would have been a different feeling in existence now. It is, however, at present but a question of a little time ere things will right themselves, as there are really good mining propositions to be secured that have temporarily suffered through the indiscriminate foisting on the market of valueless ventures.

**THE SERIOUSNESS OF LIFE.**

The following is an eastern apologue that has made a deep impression on many minds, amongst others on that of Tolstoi: A traveller in the desert is attacked by a furious wild beast, and to save himself gets into a dry well: but at the bottom of the well he sees a huge serpent with jaws wide open to devour him. He dares not get out for fear of the wild beast. He dares not descend for fear of the serpent. So he catches hold of a branch growing out of a crevice of the well. His arms grow tired but he still holds on; and then he sees two mice, one white, one black, gnawing through the branch inch by inch. He knows that he must give way soon and he must perish; yet seeing a few drops of honey on the leaves, he stretches out and takes them, though he finds them no longer sweet. The interpretation is not difficult. The desert is the world, the wild beast is passion; the serpent is death; the branch is the life to which we cling; the black and white mice which gnaw through the branch are the nights and the days; the honey on the leaves are the few poor transient pleasures at which men strive.

**To  
MINING MEN  
AND  
MANUFACTURERS  
OF  
Mining Machinery!**

You may have that which



**Miners and  
Investors :**

most prize; but then, how are they to know it if you do not . . . . .

**ADVERTISE ?**

THE

**B. C. MINING CRITIC**

IS THE

**- - BEST - -**

**Mining Advertising  
Medium**

IN THE PROVINCE, AND ITS

**RATES**

ARE

**Most Reasonable**