

British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Devoted to the Interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

THURSDAY,.....JULY 23, 1897.

Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining, mining machinery, mining laws, and matters relating to the mineralogical development of Canada, are always welcome

Manufacturers and Dealers in appliances used in and about mines are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited

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FRANK S. TAGGART, Business and Editorial Offices :
Managing Editor. 319 Cambie St., Vancouver, B.C., P. O. Box 125.

GOOD FOR FRANCE AND OURSELVES.

They sometimes "do things better in France," despite such untoward occurrences as the Panama scandal, and the present French government is about to do a very sensible thing, that should enure alike to the benefit of our Province and that of the wisely advised French capitalist, assuming that the Special Mining Commissioners who will shortly visit this Province at the instance of the French Government investigate carefully and report cautiously and well. The Government of the French Republic has, as the foregoing remarks note, lately decided to obtain a specialist report on British Columbia's mineral resources and opportunities, and with this view two very competent experts will very shortly reach Vancouver in the persons of Messrs. D. Dassert and P. Jordan, of the noted Paris School of Mines, the latter a brother of the French Consul in Vancouver. These gentlemen will make first for Vancouver, as the consular and commercial centre of the Province, and after being duly advised by their nation's local representative, visit the chief centres of British Columbia, and thus and otherwise obtain the best information they can as to the rich mineral opportunities of our land. If

satisfied, as we are well persuaded they will be, that the field is large and open and abounding in good possibilities, there is no doubt that there will follow in the wake of their reports an influx of French capital, and France is a rich nation, that will greatly stimulate our progress as a precious metal and copper mining community. Some French immigration—not large, but of a good sort, representing skill and energy—will doubtless also follow the capital and make hither; but this will probably be rather select than extensive, as the ordinary Frenchman is a home-staying mortal, but little prone to emigrate save under the partial compulsion of military or official service. The opportune visit to France of our Dominion Premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, will doubtless further stimulate this French investigation and serve to enhance its results, as Sir Wilfred is sure to be asked and to answer many questions as to the natural wealth of British Columbia during his stay in a land the tongue of which is his own, although he is a loyal British Premier and the great public man of the Empire's most important self-governing and English speaking Dominion. It is worth noting that the French "take very kindly" to copper propositions and are sure to note these in our case with almost equal interest to those attracted to undertakings dependent on gold alone. Indeed the French capitalists were once only too well to the fore in the copper market of the world, when they "cornered" for a time, with consequences ultimately disastrous to themselves, the copper market of the world. The visit of those French Government Commissioners will, therefore, be specially interesting and in all probability productive of good results. Paternalism in Government may be carried too far, but in the case of a young government like ours the French official method of investigation is commendable, and might, perhaps, not without advantage, be followed by the British home government. A commission of British mineral scientists of a practical type could, after a visit of close investigation, afford very much useful information to the British investor.