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Canadian Mining Investment.

At present a great deal of attention is being ttracted towards British Columbia as a field for investment in gold and silver mining operations. but we are told that nine-tenths of all the work In the new districts is being done by Americans. s the people of Canada are content to call the residents of the United States. It is of primary importance that the country should be developed no matter who does it, and we have no sympathy with those who abuse foreigners for exploitng the treasures which Canadians leave unsought. But we should be glad to see a greater spirit of enterprise awakened among our own capitalists. We know of several cases where enterprises in pur own country, offered first to Canadians and declined either through timidity or apathy, have been promptly undertaken by Americans. A correspondent from the far west writes: "It cems a little odd to me that the Canadians sit dly by and let the Americans take all the good things, and then wake up after all is over and howl about the Yankees getting the best of everything. While it is well to be conservative, there is such a thing as being too slow." The same correspondent, however, states a fact that explains some of the caution felt by our capi-

talists. He says : "Some of our people are a little disgusted because some of the Slocan people sold them twelve eighths in one property, and they are now busy trying to figure out what interest the last four purchasers have. But such is life. The poor prospector must be fed." It is this frequency of fraud as well as the uncertainty of mineral deposits that occasions hesitancy to invest. Some of our capitalists, instead of waiting for the scheming promoter to come along and unload his " wild cats " on them, are sending trusty men into the new regions and getting properties direct from the Government, or at first hand from the discoverers at comparatively moderate prices. In such cases there is a large chance of success, and mining becomes a legitimate and tolerably safe business. We would urge our capitalists, where they can intrust their money to men in whom they have confidence, to take risks in uncovering the vast riches that nature has deposited in our hills, rather than to employ their means in gambling in stocks and betting upon futures in wheat and pork. Apart from the money side of the question, they would gain an added interest to their lives in knowledge of new regions with all the romance of discovery and growing development. A great deal of money is being made in the Kootenay District, and it has attracted such capitalists as Rockefeller. Mineral locations that cost \$500 from the Government, are changing hands at from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and town lots that six months ago sold for \$50, now are eagerly bought for \$500. Men of energy and enterprise have a good chance to "feather their nests."

The National Museum.

"The necessity of enlarged and more secure housing of the magnificent collection of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada at Ottawa."

Such is one of the topics which is to occupy the attention of mining men in Montreal next month, on the occasion of the 64th annual meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and of meetings and conventions of every mining society in Canada. The question is one of vital importance, it is one which has more than once been brought forward before the public in the columns of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, and no amount of pressure or solicitation on the part of the press of Canada will cease until " the magnificent collection," to quote the words of the resolution, finds an adequate and fire-proof building in which the natural and attractive resources of our great Dominion can with safety be kept for reference.

Not to speak of the educating influences of such a museum on the masses, which may be judged from the annual visits of some twenty thousand persons who register their names at the door. The natural collection on Sussex Street, Ottawa, affords mining men and practical geologists, agriculturists as well as those interestee. in natural science as a study, a most excellent means of judging for themselves of the VAST MIRERAL WEALTH and the variety of it in Canada. In this great Dominion of ours *we have* the rocks which—*par excellence* carry minerals and mineral veins. The enormous development and distribution of primary rocks as we find them in Canada are such that no country in the world possesses so vast an extent of them, and these are metalliferous.

Our nickel, iron, silver, copper, gold and lead, and other metals are all found in these rocks, and it is now only a question of a proper acquaintance with the nature of these deposits, with the extent and practical usefulness of the ore, that we can begin to develope our mines with due regard to location, market and demand.

The cases of the Geological Museum on Sussex street are filled to overcrowding, and the building contains specimens of ores and minerals from every province, and mining dist.ict of the Dominion.

It is essentially a NATIONAL COLLECTION. Members of Parliament and those interested in the growth and welfare of this country, from whatever district they come, may see within the walls of the "old Clarendon House" specimens illustrating the resources of the county or riding they represent or from which they come. Ottawa, as a political centre, is visited annually by hundreds of persons from the old world and by more from the south of the boundary line. In a few moments, after spending-say, only a morning, or better a single day -such individuals as desire to become acquainted with the ore deposits which characterize Canada may do so with entire satisfaction. And, moreover, the information to be received there is reliable. Everything in the Museum tends to the practical. Besides the specimens of ores which are carefully labelled as to locality, exact and definite, as to the nature and quality of the ore, accessibility etc .- there are samples of material applicable to the arts, manufactures, for building purposes, for fertilizing the soil, for lighting and fuel purposes, gems, mineral waters, brines, salt and all such useful resources which it woold take more space to catalogue than the present article demands. Suffice it to say that the verdict not only of Canadians who are justly proud of their natural collection at Ottawa, but visitors from other countries have time and again been struck with the REMARKABLE COMPACTNESS, UTILITY and perfect classification of the Museum. But outsiders, visitors from the United States, Great Britain, and from many other countries in Europe, have referred, in scientific and other periodicals, as well as in the public press, to the richness and beautiful order of the collection. AND TO THINK THAT IN ONE NIGHT IT COULD ALL BE DESTROYED BY FIRE. Every now and then we have a narrow escape of losing this grand collection. A firescare comes every time the alarm is sounded from the district adjoining, and of all the buildings which the Government owns at present at the capital there is not one so little fire-proof as the Geological Museum. Many visitors from the United States and Europe have called attention to this collection, and the names of