

It will give you some idea of the dullness of things British Columbian in London if I tell you for a fact that I know of one of the very biggest firms in London, who associated themselves from the first with the B. C. movement have just given orders to suspend the supply of all their B. C. publications, their point being that it is "no good bothering about B. C. matters for the present, and therefore they do not need any B. C. literature." Surely this is shortsighted.

The collapse of the Klondike boom was also a bad blow to many operators who thought they foresaw big things in the goldfields of the frozen North. The Canadian Pacific Railway still calls attention to the Klondike in its advertisements, but it couples with Klondike, Kootenay and Ontario, and for the moment seems to have come to the conclusion that it is no good pushing the Klondike alone. A chat I had a few days ago with the secretary of one of the very biggest Klondike companies was illustrative of the generally disappointed tone of groups here so far as the Yukon is concerned. This gentleman told me that the results were very much below their earlier expectations. You will judge the importance of this when I tell you that this group is one of the very biggest operating in connection with South Africa and the results to which I have referred will certainly restrain them from showing any immediate enthusiasm over either B. C. or the Klondike.

The disgraceful disclosures at the public examination of the directors and promoters of the Klondike & Columbian Goldfields—the group with which so unfortunately Messrs. Turner and Pooley associated themselves—deserve the fullest publicity in British Columbia. The evidence should be published in full throughout the province. From the first I exposed Mr. Morris Catton, the erstwhile War Office clerk, in your columns and deprecated the association of members of your government with him. This individual's career (Mr. Morris Catton's) reads like a romance. He seems to have worked hard and to have gone to his private office before starting for the War Office, meeting his clerks again at lunch time, and then returning after War Office hours to work on at company promoting until after 9 o'clock. He has foisted a number of disgraceful companies on to the British public; but as I have over and over again dealt with his B. C. and Klondike ventures I need not do more now than to refer readers to the back numbers of your paper for my earlier articles about the "Klondike & Columbian Goldfields," "The Dawson City Trading Co.," "The Rainy River & Ontario Co.," and "The New Golden Twins." The evidence given in court showed that the various companies had been worked as a nice little family party chiefly for the benefit apparently of Mr. Catton, and his time directors, and I shall be very much surprised indeed if the matter is allowed to rest where it is. In addition to running as War Office clerk, and promoter Mr. Catton acted as an advertising agent and received some wonderful fees for his "services" to the companies in question. The wonderful 20 per cent. dividends which I exposed long ago is now very much in evidence. Some of the directors say the solicitor sanctioned it—the latter denies this strenuously and counters by charging the board with being solely responsible. Then there are also the questions of Catton's presents of shares to the colonial directors. The whole thing is a pretty kettle of fish, and we all look for further and early sensational developments in "another court."

Mr. Hess, of the London *Critic*, may yet be justified of his prediction!

## THE MONTH'S MINING

HARRISON LAKE DISTRICT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

I AM pleased to be able to report an improvement in conditions, and numerous enquiries as to mining properties from people of means, looking for profitable investment, are being made. Probably one effect of the recent depression will be that capitalists will be able to negotiate for the purchase of properties, on much more favourable terms than formerly, as the owners now realize that this class of property is comparatively worthless, without the assistance of capital for its development. There is meanwhile very little doubt that the recent depression is in great part due to the distrust with which capital has viewed the mischievous tinkering with mineral laws, and the introduction of the ill-considered legislation in the past. I notice one point that shows up in a very comical light, as being the legislative work of such an anti-Chinese administration as the late government posed to be, and that is the repeal of the working miners' certificate. As a matter of fact all of our local white miners have, or expect to locate mineral claims of their own, consequently this legislation is no benefit to them, as they have to possess a free miners' certificate to enable them to do so, and formerly this certificate acted in the nature of a protection to them, to the extent of its value against foreign competition, in obtaining work in mines, but now the foreign element come in, work a few months, and depart with the money they have earned, without contributing to the revenue of the country. Most especially are the Chinamen pleased with this new legislation. Immediately on the close of the fishing season, when the rivers and streams fall so as to allow the gravel bars to be worked, these Orientals betake themselves in large numbers to placer mining principally by means of the rocker. They thus formerly contributed considerably to the provincial revenue by being compelled to take out free miners' certificates, but now on being approached by his old enemy, the collector, John Chinaman blandly responds "Me no got claim," and blesses the shade of his good friends, Cotton and Martin, who have enabled him to enjoy an extra \$5 worth of opium in the year.

The Providence mine is again working and being rapidly developed under the able superintendence of Mr. DePencier, who is running two shifts. The work is proceeding under the immediate advice of Mr. Cirkle, M.E. I trust that in my next I will be able to record the initiation of operations by other companies in various parts of the district.

KAMLOOPS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Exploratory work continues to be prosecuted steadily on Coal Hill. At the Lucky Strike ore is being taken out which would indicate that the faulted vein has been recovered. A tunnel has been started at the Python which will give a depth of 175 feet, sinking having been suspended on account of the large amount of water met in the shaft. Work has been re-commenced on the Hecla which was closed down in the spring, also on account of the large influx of water into the shaft. A pump has been installed and the vein will be cross-cut from the bottom of