

was standing and remarked: "Thank God, the fools are not all dead yet." "How's that?" inquired his friend. "I've just sold the D—— mine for \$12,500." This mine has since produced more than \$5,000,000.

What a contrast between this man and the Siskiyou Co., Cal., "mine superintendent" who recently remarked that he had in his property 45 feet of ore. His listener, who was acquainted with the facts, inquired in astonishment where it was. "Why," was the reply, "we have thirty claims with a foot and a half of ore in each."

The secret of successful mine promotion lies in a careful selection of property worth all that is asked for it, and such a mine will practically sell itself. No amount of misrepresentation will give value to the property, and its proximity to other valuable and producing mines is given but passing consideration unless it be known that the ore shoots of the working mines actually pass their end lines and enter the property offered for sale, and even then unless the ore shoots be developed the value is wholly speculative and not given more than nominal credit by the investor. Still in the face of these facts promoters continually magnify the value of adjoining property, and in the glittering prospectus make prominent passing reference to valuable mines which chance to be in the same county or perhaps the same State. Such methods are particularly resorted to when the property offered for sale has little merit of its own to recommend it, but the time has come when such representations and misrepresentations are measured by their proper worth.

Real vs. Bogus Mining.

There is probably no class of men who are more abused than mining experts. That all who profess to be expert in mining affairs are really entitled to any such distinction is more than doubtful, but that the term "mining expert" includes men of undoubted ability and experience is equally true. Many definitions of what constitutes a mining expert have been given—some of them humorous and some abusive. However, the ideal mining expert must be a man of broad education and experience in mining matters, engineering and metallurgy, and there are many mining men whose experience in these matters entitles their opinion and judgment to more than ordinary consideration, and the term expert applied to such men is not a misnomer. When a mining engineer is sent to examine a property he must necessarily be a conservative, for his own experience and that of others has taught him to accept little for fact that he cannot see, and he is often compelled to refuse to recommend a property—at the seller's price—in which he really sees merit, and possibly recommends at a lower figure, and for this he is roundly abused by the miners, and sometimes the newspapers, of the district in which the property is situated.

In general, mining experts are accused of dressing ridiculously, going about the country with much circumstance and bluster, rushing hastily through a mine and passing judgment on its value. There are those who would do such things but they are impostors, such as are found in every walk of life, and not entitled to be classed as expert in