

mining laws and regulations of Australia and British Columbia?

"Yes. In some respects your conditions are very liberal, in others amendments are desirable. The country is being staked by men, many of whom have a very slight knowledge of minerals, often placing their discovery posts on country rock—without any intention of doing assessment work—on the off chance of selling their claims for a mere trifle. The accessible country is thus barred from the search of the genuine mineral prospector, and relocation aggravates the position. He is baffled at every turn by dummed land, claims carelessly staked, and illegible notices. If the restrictions were made more severe, the land now dummed would be open to him to prospect, and he would have a chance of locating ground upon which he would put in labor of much higher assessment value. I would encourage the genuine mining prospector in every possible way. It is his particular work. He finds his own means, or is grubstaked for a lengthy trip. If he makes a discovery of value he generally finds means of continuing his prospecting work. As a rule there are willing purchasers for promising ventures. He has a ready market for shows of value, and a chance of dealing direct with the different exploration companies, who give him a fair price, and who are opening up the country with their capital. The effect of dummying claims is putting the country back in a serious degree. If put a stop to, claims taken up would be thoroughly prospected, more discoveries would be made, more mines would be in operation, more miners employed, the country enriched thereby, and it would eliminate many of the 'wild cat' schemes it is feared may be put upon the market, with the usual result—groups of claims of no value.

"What amendments would I suggest, and how to give them practical shape?

"Well, that is rather a large order. A few will suffice for the present: The proper staking out of claims, blazed boundary lines, angle posts, L trenches showing direction of boundary lines, and legible notices on datum posts, would assist the mining prospector in his wanderings through thick forest and dense scrub. Discovery posts should be abolished: registration of claims not to be compulsory whilst being prospected continuously. On registration, compulsory surveys should be executed under government supervision at fixed rates; and charts of the different mining districts should be provided by the government, showing trails, claims taken up and surveyed, so that the mining prospector could turn his attention to vacant ground, and know where to find it without wasting time. As to the amendments required, I would suggest: First, the constitution of mining boards in every mining district; second, the election of two representatives from each district to attend a general

mining conference, to which the minister of mines and members of parliament for their districts should be invited to discuss the mining act clause by clause, suggesting additions or amendments. Out of this would grow the constitution of a council of mines, composed of the minister of mines, chairmen of the chief stock exchanges, presidents of the mine managers and the miners' associations, and other representatives of mining bodies, including secretaries of mining corporations, say not to exceed five in number. The council to have the following powers and duties, viz: Advise and report to ministers with respect to amendments and necessity of any new regulation, breaches of covenants of any mining claims, and make such propositions to the ministers as it may think advisable for the purpose of stimulating and encouraging mining throughout British Columbia, and generally advise as to any matters connected with the mining industry in British Columbia.

THE GLENORA-TESLIN TRAIL.

All sensible British Columbians should, whatever their views of our Provincial party politics, approve the immediate intention of the Provincial government to make the best possible wagon trail of the Glenora-Teslin road at the earliest moment. The Dominion government seemingly hesitates and delays action, when immediate action is demanded, and for once at least a Provincial administration leads the way in an endeavor that must conduce greatly to the benefit of the Province's Klondike trade. A good wagon trail may be made by June if the work be well planned on proper lines of subdivision of labor. Then the Glenora-Teslin route will become a favorite means of northern access at less than a twentieth of the cost of a railroad that would not in any case have been built and in running order before the close of the Klondike emigration season.

RESIGNS HIS APPOINTMENT.

Mr. D. J. Macdonald, Provincial Inspector of Mines, has resigned his government appointment and followed Mr. Carlyle's example in accepting a position at Rossland under the British America Corporation. The Corporation's policy is evidently to secure good practical aides to the Hon. Mr. Mackintosh and his director colleagues.

SCHOOL OF MINES FOR RUSSLAND.

Influential Rosslanders are supporting a local school of mines, which has just been established in their city, with Mr. H. Hastings, C. E., as the first of a body of instructors to be duly organized. The instruction given will be practical, and prove, it is thought, of great value to Kootenay prospectors.