

in the course of the next year at or near Vancouver. But the fact is quite well recognized that the time has not yet arrived when it would be wise to set up smelting works on the Coast upon any sort of a large scale, and a matting plant, which could be installed at a relatively small cost, of from 80 to 100 ton capacity, and capable of producing a 60 per cent. matte would serve all purposes, unless any phenomenal developments take place, for some time to come. Vancouver has, however, every prospect of becoming at a future date a smelting centre of importance, but much depends on the success attending the opening up of mining properties in the Kamloops and other camps along the main line of the C. P. R., as well as the profitable working of the Coast and Texada properties. If too, British Columbia lead can be marketed direct in the Orient, a smelter and refinery in Vancouver for the treatment of the Slocan galena ores might be successfully operated.

The question which has been much debated lately regarding the advisability of the passage of legisla-

ALIENS	placer ground in Canada presents
AND	many very complex features. Un-
PLACER	doubtedly the law enacted by the
MINING.	United States was largely influenced
	by the desire to build up a nation, and

it was consequently deemed important that every immigrant should become a naturalized citizen of the Republic. Taxation without representation, be it remembered, was the principle for which the American colonies fought in the eighteenth century and the enforcement of the law against alien ownership of property has since resulted in building up a nation of 70,000,000 inhabitants.

The desire to seek fortune where greater opportunities existed for the acquisition of wealth and position was the magnet which has attracted men of sturdy independence of character to emigrate from the over-crowded European centres to the New World. The advantages which accompanied citizenship in the United States were so pronounced that the majority of new comers were glad to embrace this opportunity when offered them.

The natural wish to have a voice in the government of the adopted country, to acquire land, to prospect for minerals were the powerful influences at work. In short, the laws had been framed with a view of making citizenship so valuable from a commercial standpoint that it overbalanced consideration of sentiment.

But supposing Canada compelled an alien to declare his intention of becoming a British subject before he could acquire placer ground in the Dominion, would that prevent him from purchasing his supplies in United States markets if he felt so disposed? Would it prevent him from carrying his gold dust to an American mint? Would it make the Government of the great Northwest self-supporting? In a word, would it be productive of any great good to either the Dominion or to this Province?

The placer mining districts of the Yukon, should and we believe now do, produce a sufficient revenue to defray all expenses of administration, and yet probably four-fifths of that revenue is derived from an alien population. Subtract the revenue from this source, and

a deficit is at once created. Besides, greater expense would be entailed on the Government to keep aliens out of the country. The whole length of the Alaskan boundary would have to be closely watched or small parties of prospectors would dodge across, make discoveries on some remote creek, work for a time and dodge back again, taking with them the results of their work, and leaving Canada so much the poorer. But under the present conditions it is not worth a man's while to avoid paying for a miner's license.

Instead of attempting to keep aliens away from the placer districts on the sentimental ground of "Canada for Canadians," would it not be more practical for the Canadian Government, and the representatives of the commercial interests in the Dominion to pass such legislation, and to cultivate such a spirit of enterprise that the miners would find it to their own advantage to deposit their gold in a Canadian mint, to purchase their supplies from Canadian merchants and to travel by Canadian transportation lines. The fact that Yukon gold dust has found its way to Seattle and San Francisco is due to the better facilities for its disposal offered in those cities. This condition was brought about by the enterprise and the foresight of the representatives of the people in Washington.

Patriotism is very pretty in theory, but it is rarely practical when an attempt is made to reconcile it with commercial instincts. Enterprise, alertness, business ability will not be governed by sentimentality. The English corporation which engaged the services of John Hays Hammond, an American mining engineer to superintend their operations in the Transvaal at a salary of \$60,000 per annum, did not allow sentiment to interfere when making that selection. Ability for the position was considered of paramount importance.

If the sentiment "Canadian placer gold for Canadians" could be practically carried out, of course no one on this side of the line would have the temerity to oppose it nor indeed the desire. But it is much easier to advocate a reform, especially of a popular nature, than to provide means for carrying it into effect.

There is no doubt that the United States recognized the impracticability of enforcing the non-alien ownership law in Alaska, when it was so modified with regard to that territory that Canadians were allowed the equal rights with the United States citizens. When, moreover, it is considered that last season only about \$8,000,000 in gold dust was brought out of the Yukon, while possibly \$20,000,000 were expended in supplies and transportation, and that Canada had every opportunity for securing a large share of this trade there is less reason for the present agitation, and if an anti-alien law had been in effect there would probably not have been a one-hundredth part of the expenditure in Canadian cities that was otherwise the case, because men would have avoided Canadian territory entirely until they could have discovered some point along the boundary where they could safely elude the vigilance of the Canadian officials, for it is absurd to imagine that any force of police could have effectively patrolled so immense a stretch of border line as that between Alaska and the Yukon—and once in the country the veteran placer miner would soon prove that there were several ways of "beating the devil round the stump."