

British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

WEEKLY EDITION.

Vol. I, No. 40.

VANCOUVER, B.C., SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1898.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

NOTICES.

All communications intended for THE EDITOR should be sent direct to

THE EDITORIAL OFFICES,
319 CANNIE STREET,
VANCOUVER, B. C.

The British Columbia Mining Critic is published weekly in the interest of Mining, Finance and Commerce, and for the protection of investors.

Subscription, Two Dollars a year, payable in advance.

FRANK S. TAGGART,
Editor and Managing Director.

British Columbia Mining Critic

Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd.

Publishing Offices: 401 and 403 Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

EDITORIAL.

"JOCKEYED."

There is no doubt that the much eulogized Minister of the Interior, the Hon. Mr. Sifton, will have to learn and unlearn much, ere he lives even half up to the greatness, thrust upon him by swarms of adulators, some of whom no doubt expect, or expected substantial favors from his department, in a country where unfortunately reform of a rotten system of civil service patronage is apparently quite out of the programme of either of Canada's great political parties. Mr. Sifton has already once amended previously unworkable Yukon regulations, and it is already certain that in many important respects the revised decrees of his department will still be found overexacting in some cases, and unduly preferential in others. It is clear, too, that as regards the disposal of Yukon timber limits no care has been taken to give sufficient time for proper competition amongst all applicants, and it would also appear that the same is the case with dredging leases and permits. Indeed, in each instance there is something unbusinesslike if not suspicious, in the undue haste that has been shown, as regards the departmental intentions to grant valuable privileges "right and left" long ere half the possible applicants in the Yukon can learn what is on offer. Only in an apparent disposition to hold back land grants, is there any prudence seemingly

being shown in the present administration of the Yukon by the present Minister of the Interior.

And as men of all parties perceive—the MINING CRITIC not being, moreover, run as a political organ—the Hon. Mr. Sifton has clearly been cleverly "jockeyed" by Secretary of State Gage and other adroit United States politicians. Even our boards of trade are therefore compelled to protest, and this loudly, against the lack of reciprocity secured from the United States by Mr. Sifton's mal-adroit diplomacy. He has, on behalf of Canada, assented to a nationally humiliating foreign relief expedition, in aid of residents whom the flag and rule of Canada should sufficiently protect and whose lives should be made as safe as it is possible by Dominion Government and not by United States action. Mr. Sifton has also confirmed to immigrants and traders from the United States the fullest and easiest of bonding and other privileges in connection with the carriage of American goods through British Yukon to Alaska. Meanwhile, to the utter disgust and vast detriment of Canada's outfitters of this Province, he has failed to secure the immediate grant of equal privileges to Canadian goods in return over a strip of land which has not, yet even been declared American soil, but is practically certain thus now to be declared, as a result of a "laissez faire, laissez aller" policy of inaction, which allows the United States to make an effective occupation of the Dyea-Skagway district. Our Minister of the Interior calmly suffers day after day to pass, whilst statesmen of heavier metal on the other side of the line contrive all kinds of sham excuses for a procrastination, which nullifies the effect of Canada's import duties, from which otherwise and in other cases, Heaven knows, Western Canadian consumers suffer in the pocket enough. Thus men are outfitting by hundreds on the other side of the international boundary who would come hither, did Canada secure her rights, and almost the only instance in which British Columbia might benefit considerably and exceptionally by a protective system, is allowed to become nugatory; all the consolation that our merchants receive for this neglect of their vital interests being a number of politely worded telegrams from the worthy Minister of the Interior. If this be states-