

duly fulfilled, prove satisfactory to prospectors in that district. A recent decision of the highest court of the Empire, as will be remembered, declared clearly that the Esquimaux and Nanaimo railway's grant of Provincial lands and mineral rights did not include the precious metals.

The London (Eng.) Mining Journal continues to do good work by repeating emphatic warnings against the migration to the Klondike of British tenderfeet, and against the wiles of Klondike promoters. It also warns investing readers to be wary of certain dubious British Columbia promotions now projected in England, instancing in particular the case of the Bondholder.

STRANGELY UNINFORMED.

The ignorance of the assistant editor of the London (Eng.) Standard, who supervises trans-Atlantic cable matter, is seemingly phenomenal. Thus that leading English daily paper recently published, and, no doubt, paid well for a lot of senseless twaddle cabled by a boomster correspondent in New York to the effect that the Chilkoot Pass aerial tramway has reduced the journey from ocean to the Yukon from one month to a single day. This nonsense duly appeared without a single warning comment, and has probably caused not a few persons to set out for the Yukon country, under the impression that it can be reached in the course of a single day's easy journeying from the ocean limits of Alaska. It will be remembered that it was the Standard which lately published deceptive nonsense about Yukon quartz running \$300,000 to the ton, a story which suggests a well-known Yankee comment on a like assay of a small sample taken from a good pocket. The showing per ton was all right, he said, but the thought that troubled his mind was, "Where in hades am I to find the ton?" The Standard's telegraph editor clearly needs a lot more "horse sense" than he at present possesses. There will then be fewer fool-traps in the columns under his supervision.

BIG NAMES AND BIG MONEY.

There are big names standing for big money behind the Rothschilds' syndicate's endeavor to secure a Yukon railroad charter, via the Dalton trail. The proposed incorporators are Lord Farquhar, the well-known London banker, Lionel Phillips, the South African millionaire, and Messrs. Hamilton Smith, Rosenthal, Lakash, Gibbs, and Rider, all well-known London financial men. It is, however, very doubtful if the effort will succeed, the Mann-Mackenzie group having clearly got a "big pull" at Ottawa, and expecting thus to secure the projected monopoly with profits behind it certainly representing several millions of dollars.

AGAINST A SUGGESTED CHANGE.

Mr. W. A. Carlyle, Provincial Mineralogist, recently suggested certain changes in the mining laws, including the adoption of a provision that a locator must perform his assessment work within ninety days instead of one year, as at present. While Mr. Carlyle did not think his changes would yet be made, he said he would like them to be discussed. The people of Kaslo have accordingly done this in public meeting, and have passed the following condemnatory resolution: "Resolved, that it is the sense of this meeting that the proposed amendment of Provincial Mineralogist Carlyle, discriminating against the prospector, be not indorsed, and that a petition in remonstrance be circulated and forwarded to the legislature and Provincial government, notifying them to that effect."

Evidently the men of Kaslo think the Provincial Mineralogist's suggestion, while well intended, somewhat too drastic. Whilst one year is probably an excessive time allowance for assessment work, ninety days may on the other hand be found too short. A six months period might perhaps prove an acceptable compromise.

AT AND EN ROUTE TO KLONDIKE.

The Dawson hospitals are full of fever and scurvy stricken patients, and there is great local scarcity of food, though no actual starvation. Meanwhile, as a result of the finding of a nugget worth about \$450, a great rush of tenderfeet is proceeding to a new locality known as Skookum gulch. On Big Salmon and other streams further gold finds are reported, but there is nothing to evidence anything phenomenal.

Meanwhile, at Wrangel the C. P. R. has purchased wharfage accommodations, which will at once be largely extended. The town is growing rapidly, and some sort of a trail has already been made to Teslin lake, toward which hundreds of men are now making on foot, accompanied by dog teams. Meanwhile Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie are pushing forward supplies, in order to begin without delay the work of constructing the Stickine River railroad.

THE CRITIC'S VIEW CONFIRMED.

The Toronto Globe already exults over the probability that the Dominion will receive a big profit revenue, as a result of the numerous exactions in duties, excise and license fees on Yukon settlers. The Globe reckons at a low estimate on a profit of \$1,500,000. The Dominion government organ thus fully confirms the long since expressed opinion of the MINING CRITIC, which still holds that many of the exactions—the 10 per cent. royalty being a special instance in point—are far too heavy.