

The British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

The British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Devoted to the Interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

THURSDAY APRIL 29, 1897.

Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining, mining machinery, mining laws, and matters relating to the mineralogical development of Canada, are always welcome.

Manufacturers and Dealers in appliances used in and about mines are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.

Subscription, Two Dollars a year, payable in advance. Remittances should be made by Express, Postal Order or Bank Draft payable to the "British Columbia Mining Critic."

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OUR RAISON D'ETRE.

The object of the BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING CRITIC is to inform the world how the mineral deposits of British Columbia in particular, and Canada in general, are being developed and with what pecuniary results.

We recognize the fact that to combine individual capital for the general good and the private acquisition of a competency is a virtue; and that to conspire and scheme, and by fraudulent misrepresentation endeavor to accumulate wealth, is a vice.

Hence we will assist the successful promotion of all legitimate mining enterprises, and we will devote our best energies and to the utmost of our ability expose dishonorable projects through which the public may become victimized. These are the purposes for which we exist.

THE PRESS AND OUR MINES.

It has become so familiar to read in the morning and evening papers of an important strike in this mine and a gigantic find in another, both of which excel in value any previous discovery, that quite naturally these statements are at last received by the knowing public with derision. It appears from a common sense point of view, that with only an exception here and there, the whole united press have banded together to suppress information in connection with certain mines which they know to be badly managed, financially weak, and totally worthless so far as ore value is concerned. In many cases it has only to be stated that Tom Brown or Dick Jones made a valuable discovery at Gold Valley, Silver Creek, or some other well known vicinity, when the next issue of the journal details the find, showing all its glowing capabilities of paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in dividends with-

and all this matter is published day after day without any better authority than a statement from one who in most cases never before saw either a mine or a prospect. Without first accepting facts as genuine the press have a duty to perform in making every enquiry as to the truth and the merit of the assertion. Again, an interested shareholder, or even a director, reports the striking of the lode in No. 2 tunnel six feet wide of solid ore, assaying from \$20 to \$100, yet upon investigation the strike proves a small vein intermixed with country rock, extending across the face of the tunnel at the bottom of the shaft, and really assaying from nothing to \$5; yet the assays are not taken heed of until, with the audacity of a thief, the picking and mixing at last enables those responsible to obtain the desired result—a big assay, which means nothing, but has the desired effect. It is high time that the press generally changed their tactics. Too many mining propositions pay their advertising accounts in the share of the company, hence the writing up with or without merit the mining shares in the various companies. Unfortunately, it is believed by proprietors and editors of many journals that their agricultural and general correspondent has only to be sent into a mining district and report generally upon prospects etc. Yet if they would understand how little reliance can be placed upon such authority they would hesitate before sending such a representative on so hazardous a pilgrimage. The mining reporter needs to have considerable practical experience and to be able to judge the value of a mine and its prospects within reason, and be under no restrictions; to see what he reports, and writes upon his own judgment, not receive statements that this prospect is wonderful and that company will shortly be distributing dividends, then accept it as facts because he has had no mining experience.

A newspaper representative that has to accept mining notes from managers, directors, and others interested will be frequently hoodwinked, and in turn the public are deceived, and stores of cash reach the pockets of the mining shark, while ninety per cent. of the press can to-day congratulate themselves upon furthering the swindles perpetrated by these mining magnates. A mining reporter needs to have the qualification of being suspicious of every mining report he hears casually. It is necessary to be decisive and personally inspect the workings, form his own opinion and have the courage of his convictions, which in due course appear in the paper he has the privilege of acting for. It is obvious to do this that mining experience must be another and paramount qualification. Yet we are going to place ourselves on this footing, and our reports on the various mines and prospects will be vouched for, all reports undergoing the strictest enquiry, and our own special mining representative, who has had many years of mining experience all over the world, will examine carefully all mines upon which we furnish particulars for the benefit of the public.

The editor of the *Morning Breeze* having become identified with this journal, the publication of the former will cease.