

# British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

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## THE VIEWS OF AN OLD MINING MAN.

(Communicated.)

In reviewing the British Columbia mining share market, it is no surprise to me that a setback has taken place in most, if not all, mining securities. Why? British Columbia is a new mining country and necessarily lacks men of experience. Many of the brokers are newly fledged, their experiences being gurgulously varied; men who were absolute failures in every other business or profession they have handled, having at last "tackled" the profession that needs the most carefully devoted skill and energy, viz., sharebroking. Others have left permanent work in industries, such as mechanics, grocers, barbers and loggers. In fact contingents from every industry, not even excepting clerks and clerics have become prospectors, miners and mining experts, and today have more knowledge (or at least they think so) than those who have gained their experience by hard work and years of apprenticeship. What then are the consequences? Actually little successful prospecting, because those employed in this occupation are entirely ignorant of its requirements. So the inevitable follows: simply a couple of posts are put in the ground and a claim recorded, no matter where or how, and in the course of a few weeks at the average, every individual prospector has staked out no less than twenty claims, on none of which has he put a pick. Mineralized rock is brought into town, the ledge is stated to be this width and that width carrying a splendid prospect on the surface, perhaps assaying from \$10 to \$100 in gold or silver, or perhaps in both. But if due enquiry be made, it is often found that the rock brought into town has never come of the ground purported to be carrying the lode. This kind of thing has been going on since men in B.C. first discovered its mineral wealth. Belts of granite, diorite, slate and other country rocks have been staked in pure ignorance, the so-called prospector honestly believing that he has secured unknown wealth.

Prospectors need to be tried men, and are, in fact, the backbone of the mining industry when they know their business and good men are always learning, although for many years they have diligently followed this occupation.

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