

Determination and Naming of Minerals.

The Editor of this Department will, without charge, examine and name, so far as possible, samples of minerals sent him; the answers being printed in the *MINING CRITIC*. He will only undertake to name average minerals, such as can be fairly determined at sight; and microscopic or chemical analyses will not be attempted; neither is it always possible to determine with absolute precision and certainty a small sample, or one decomposed and oxidized, and with such samples the sender must be content with the provisional determination that it APPEARS like such and such a mineral.

Questions involving an opinion on mining property, for which an expert would be entitled to a fee, will not be answered, but advice that will aid the prospector will be given.

The following conditions must be observed by those sending specimens for determination:

The specimens should be fresh and, where possible, about two inches square.

Each should be distinctly labeled.

The name and address of the sender, written very distinctly, must be enclosed in the package.

The package should be sent prepaid to the Editor B. C. *MINING CRITIC*, Vancouver, B. C.

A letter should accompany the specimens describing the locality, mode of occurrence of the rock and other facts, and rough sketches may accompany such descriptions.

Samples will not be returned unless by request, and where stamps are enclosed to cover postage or expressage.

Paid subscribers will receive an answer by letter to inquiries when so desired.

F. C. S.: Many chemists undoubtedly read the *CRITIC*. Possibly your question may interest some of them, so as we are unable to say "whether carbinium the metallic base of carbon has ever been isolated,?" our columns are open to any one who can answer this conundrum or who may desire to discuss the question.

Pitt Lake: The Samples are granitoid matter impregnated with copper sulphides. Send them to some good assayer to be assayed for copper, silver and gold.

Albarni: Your rock as sent may or may not contain gold in paying amounts. The green soft matter with the quartz is chlorite (pipestone), and is sometimes found to contain gold as at the Kookagami lake mines in Ontario, where the chlorite contains gold in pieces up to many grains weight.

Skookum Chuck: No, the ore mentioned in our issue of 6th August did not come from the Skookum Chuck mine.

What is it?: You do not comply with our rules as printed above, therefore are not entitled to description given herewith. The samples are a rock called granetyle and are nearly pure garnet, the remainder being quartz. We do not recall a case where this rock encloses a paying gold vein. It is common to the east of Harrison lake.

O. P. C., Ymir: Samples are always welcome. Those you send are fine specimens of a concentrating gold and silver ore, and if your vein is several feet wide you should be able to sell your claim. We advise you to do some stripping meantime.

Cyanide Poisoning: The journal of the Chemical and Metallurgical Society of South Africa re-

prints the following from a German exchange: "Practical experience has shown that peroxide of hydrogen may be considered a powerful antidote for cyanide poisoning. It has recently been applied successfully in 2½ to 3 per cent. solution, as subcutaneous injections, which were performed every four minutes at different parts of the body. At the same time the stomach was washed out with a 2 per cent. H₂O₂ solution.

"Peroxide of hydrogen forms with hydrocyanic acid oxamide, which is a harmless compound:

"2HCN+H₂O₂=2CONH₂=oxamide."

THE AGENT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

EDITOR THE "CRITIC."—Sir,—Your references last week regarding the necessity of having some official in London, to inform enquirers of conditions in B.C. as regards mining, is timely. I speak as one who has experienced the drawbacks of the present arrangements. I came out from London six months ago, and previous to coming I applied at the Agent-General's office for information. But there was absolutely none to be had. I was treated courteously, but really the result of my enquiries was that I would have to go to B.C. to find out what I wanted to learn. I have come here, but had I had the knowledge I now possess, and which should have been given at any well-informed B.C. agency in London, it would have saved me a good many dollars. I cannot believe that the Government is aware of the totally useless nature of the London agency now maintained, or they long ago would have either mended or ended it.

GEO. T. ROOGE,

Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 16,

GOLDEN CACHE.

THE *CRITIC* is in receipt of intelligence that will be pleasing to the shareholders in the Golden Cache. The new stamp mill has now been running for some time and is giving the most perfect satisfaction. An abundant water power has been developed by the new dam on Cayoosh creek, and the air compressors are doing their work perfectly, supplying power for the mill and drills. The work is progressing on the most economical lines, and judging from the character of rock on which the stamps are now falling continuously, 24 hours in the day, the results should be such as to restore much of the faith in the property which existed before the previous test run. The public will watch with great interest the next wash-up, and confidence in its success is growing stronger at the mill every day.