

DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT.

A certain London-Yukon company—the Yukon Goldfields, Limited—is assuredly in the hands of men who have much yet to learn about the country which they are attempting to exploit with, considering the expensive nature of operations there conducted on a considerable scale—the petty called up capitalization of £6,000. The MINING CRITIC says that they don't know much about the country, the fact being self-evident from the remark of Mr. A. Fell, who recently presided at the first meeting of the company, for that gentleman told those present that the "first news from Dawson City would probably be received in England about July next," although "two experienced men some time since set out for Dawson City with ten horses, two boats and fifteen months' provisions. If Mr. Fell meant that the first general news from Dawson will arrive in England in July, he is evidently unaware that government arrangements are being made by which information will thence reach civilization in general much earlier. If, however, he means that the men of the Yukon Goldfields, Limited, will not "send word home" before July, he may likely be right, as it will take them all their time to get through before late spring, and they won't, when they arrive, accomplish anything very great, pro bono publico, if they have then but a meager remnant of an original £6,000 on which to draw for claim purchases. Anything really proven good will by then have reached a big value, but they may, of course, hunt up and secure the materials for "wild cat" creations, which are likely enough, all that a company of this speculative type requires. "Wild cats" are, of course, good enough for English "gull catching," and the flocks of the latter are, alas! still large. To speak plainly, the Yukon Goldfields, Limited, certainly doesn't look much of a concern in itself, nor does its chairman put a very brilliant complexion on it.

OF DOUBTFUL OMEN.

There has just been registered in London, Eng., each in a very small capital of £100, the Detroit Mine, Limited; the Oldham Mine, Limited; the Montague Mine, Limited; and the Burlington Mine, Limited, each dealing with a different claim situate in the Illicilliwaet River and Downie Creek district and evidently "bought for a song." These registrations almost certainly imply the early stages of processes by which the claims in question will be submitted to a confiding British public on terms involving big promotion profits. There is no other adequate explanation for the small capitalization of what may be termed a group of "chick" companies. Another even more remarkable company of like type, recently registered in London, Eng., is

the United Gold Mines of British Columbia, Limited, which, with a capital of £100, equal to say \$485, proposes to "carry on business in manner suggested by the title." The interesting query here suggests itself: How many British Columbia gold mines for £100. The MINING CRITIC is, of course, aware that specious explanations may be given for the small capitalizations of these undertakings, but sooner or later there will assuredly be disclosed somewhere about them or their offspring, the "cloven hoof" of a promoter of a doubtful type.

A CHANGE OF LAW NEEDED.

Mr. White, M.E., of Fort Steele, says, according to the *Wardner International*: "Another unfortunate condition is the mining regulations of this Province that permit a man to stake untold numbers of claims and hold them for a year without work. Take, for instance, the Perry Creek District. Everything is staked out there, and it will be a year before the claims are invalidated by failure to do assessment work. This will prevent men going in there next season who will be ready to stake a claim that gave promise and investigate its merits by legitimate work. The law should be changed in this respect. It would be far better if a prospector was compelled to do a certain amount of work before he could record a claim. This would make each claim a legitimate one."

Mr. White's opinion coincides with that of Mr. W. A. Carlyle, the Provincial Mineralogist, the weight of whose official authority should tend next session to induce the needed Provincial legislation. The same trouble that afflicts Perry Creek injures a score of other good districts.

NEW USE FOR RETIRED GOVERNORS.

Sir Charles Tupper is wise in his day and generation as a company promoter, and, therefore, knows that at present and for the time being it is a good thing to place on the board of a Western Canadian or Klondike company, appealing to the British public, a retiring lieutenant-governor of any Canadian Province. Hence largely, no doubt, the addition of Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney to the directing strength of the Klondike Mining, Trading & Transport Company, Limited, of which Sir Charles Tupper is the leading spirit. The Hon. Mr. Dewdney is not, however—to do him justice—to be a merely ornamental aide, for Sir Charles states that Mr. Dewdney will, despite his years, lead the first party that goes to the Klondike on behalf of the company with which he has now associated himself. Such work, will, however, prove infinitely harder than the "soft snap" of Government House, Victoria.