

### THE WAVERLEY MINE.

Mr. Ole Sandberg, the original locator of the Waverley mine in the Illeciltwaot, has under general if not verbal inspiration, issued a challenge to the MINING CRITIC in connection with the recent visit of Mr. E. Grant Govan, the promoter of the company owning the claim, the property in which was recently transferred to the Waverley Mine, Limited, on terms highly profitable to a parent organization, widely known as the Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited. Mr. Sandberg offers to submit the present showing in the Waverley mine to the arbitrament of an accredited mining engineer to be appointed by the MINING CRITIC, and three umpires, one to be chosen by ourselves, one by himself, and a third by the other umpires. A wager of \$500 and payment of all expenses of the investigation are to be contingent on the umpire's final decision in verification or otherwise of a broad statement made by Mr. Sandberg, to the effect that the Waverley's present showing is one of the largest and most valuable mineral deposits yet discovered in British Columbia.

Our reply is that the MINING CRITIC has no intention to inflate a costly policy of making its carefully considered and honestly uttered opinions matters of wagering, far less of a wager in which the issue is based on such a very vague general submission to arbitration as that offered by Mr. Sandberg. The Waverley mine may even now show, on workings that have not gone far by any means, one of the largest mineral deposits in British Columbia, and yet wholly fail to justify the flotation of the company subject to such an amount of purchase money as that embodied in the terms of the Waverley claim's transfer for £35,000 in cash plus £25,000 in fully paid shares. Even now the Waverley mine is but a promising claim, which may, as others equally promising have done in B. C., fail to bear out external indications on full and deep working. And when the Waverley Mine Company was first floated, there was little more than a minimum of work done, whilst the estimates of the claim were made on the authority of a noted boom valuer in one instance and in others by gentlemen who indulged in the broadest generalities after, of course, either making or getting made the usual assays of choice specimens of ore.

Mr. John Grant also endorsed the experts' favorable view of the value of the claim, so, too, did Mr. J. M. Kelle, M. P.; but without wishing unfairly to disparage the accuracy of these gentlemen's judgment, the MINING CRITIC can certainly say that each of them is by nature of a very sanguine disposition and prone to rate extremely high the worth of properties or undertakings with which he happens to be connected.

of its comment: "The Waverley may, perhaps, prove a profitable mine for the British investor, but on the terms asked they are certainly required to give about thrice what the average B. C. mining man would consider its fullest market value as a claim of promise with just a little tunneling work upon it." This we repeat.

The Waverley mine claim when floated was, as practical mining men of the province well knew, just such a claim as would be reckoned well sold at about \$50,000 in cash and other \$50,000 in fully paid shares, instead of £35,000 in cash and £25,000 in fully paid shares. We were, as we then stated, by no means alone in our opinion of the sweeping generalities of the claim's valuations, and since then one of the most noted of well established mining journals has gone far further than ever did the MINING CRITIC, by speaking out boldly as follows: "The nature of the vein is not described in a very practical way; you only have to dip your hand in the lucky bag and you get gray copper, galena or horn silver, as rich as you want it. Apparently they all occur together in the same vein, for all the assay certificates show gold, silver, lead and copper. If all this is true, Mr. John Grant, the original vendor and developer, would have got more by developing the property locally than he is ever likely to get from the Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited."

This is far plainer and stronger speaking than the words of the MINING CRITIC, but Mr. Sandberg doubtless thinks it safest—backed by well capitalized British company promoters—to call upon the MINING CRITIC to take up a costly challenge, the issue of which is to depend upon vague matter of opinion as to what are still little more than surface showings. Mr. Grant Govan says that the Waverley mine is a property "as good as any in the country, and all we ask you and the country to do is to judge as to what we do." That the MINING CRITIC promises and it will act fairly towards the undertaking. But we nevertheless stand by our original opinion, that the Waverley claim, when floated as a subsidiary company by the Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited, was sold on cash terms far above the British Columbia market value—terms which, while amply securing goodly profits for the transferors, left unduly large risks for the far away transferees amongst the British investing public.

### ROSSLAND'S SHIPMENTS.

Rosslund's ore shipments for the week ending 7th August amounted to 1750 tons, contributed by five mines. The reduction from average recent weekly shipments was mainly due to the closing for several days of the Le Rol mine for the purpose of shaft improvements.

### CONCENTRATES.

Clondyke is a corruption of Thron-dluck, an Indian name. It means "plenty of fish."

Capt. Hall, of the Le Rol, states that the mine is now turning out 250 tons daily and that in a short time this will be increased to 350 tons. He said, at a conservative estimate the Le Rol has in sight 100,000 tons.

There are 22 men employed at the Waverley mine, who, besides running the main tunnel, are building, houses, ore dumps, magazines, etc. The tunnel is now in 200 feet and the showings of ore are excellent.

The August number of the Kootenay Guide is just to hand from the press. In addition to the miscellaneous information hitherto contained, which has been carefully revised and corrected, there is a complete list of post offices in B. C. and mining companies. The Guide is a most serviceable pamphlet, which no person interested in Kootenay can afford to be without.

Kootenay, Yale, Lillooet, Cariboo and other sections of British Columbia will in all be even richer than the Clondyke, but as "distant fields are green," so those who are bound to go north see in the Clondyke region the best mining district on the earth. Many people will go to the icy north no matter how much they are cautioned against it and no matter how immense the wealth they leave behind in the more accessible portions of this province. For many experienced miners, however, these are good enough.

The Union S. S. Company's steamer Capilano is back from the north, having arrived in port from Pyramid harbor, near Dyea, about 9 o'clock on Friday night. The cattle and horses were safely got on shore, but had to swim for it. All are destined for the Clondyke and are now well on their way. The trip throughout was a fine one and no accident was met with. On the return six vessels were met making their way north. The vessel reports that Juncan is deserted; that the town is short of provisions, and that miners can obtain no supplies there. The stores are entirely without bacon, while there is little flour to be had. It is thought that all those at Dyea, with the provisions, will get into Dawson City before winter.

The Alaska Miner says that it will not be safe to leave Juncan later than September 5th and expect to reach Dawson before the river closes.

The rails for the Trail-Robson railway will be laid and the road in operation within 30 days.

Several parties of miners, who are en route to Clondyke, are stopping at the Oriental. They intend outfitting at Vancouver, so as to avoid paying duty when