

Mr. Henry Croft, whose portrait we present this month, has played a very important part in the development of the mineral resources of the East Coast of Vancouver Island, the opening up of the mines of the Mount Sicker district and the large subsequent investment of capital in that neighbourhood being largely due to his enterprise, energy and perseverance. At a time when prospectors found it almost impossible to interest capital even in small amounts to develop their claims on Mount Sicker, Mr. Croft acquired the Lenora mine, and succeeded in proving it to be a very valuable property. There is now no copper mining district in British Columbia of greater promise. Mr. Croft is a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers; an associate member of the Institute of Civil Engineers; a member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers; a member of the Federated Institute of Mining Engineers, and a member of the S. Staffordshire and E. Worcestershire Institute of Mining Engineers.

American investors who make a regular business of acquiring mineral claims are not often caught "napping," but our Slocan City correspondent sends us the following narrative which would appear to show that even shrewd men of business can at times be very unbusinesslike. He writes: "A number of claims have been acquired in this district by what is locally known as the Detroit Syndicate. As a matter of fact the various properties are owned by separate groups of capitalists with their headquarters in Detroit, Mich. In order to understand the situation one must go back to the winter of 1900-01, when Mr. Chas Dempster, of Rossland, secured an option on the Republic group here and with local assistance sold the property to a syndicate in Detroit. Last summer he in company with the principal members of the syndicate visited the property, and being thoroughly pleased with what they saw, completed the organization of the Slocan Republic Co. and have been actively engaged this summer in opening up their property under the supervision of Mr. R. C. Campbell Johnson. The favourable reports of the dis-

trict, not only by the original visitors, but by others who were interested in the Republic, made it a comparatively easy matter to dispose of other property and options on a number of promising claims were secured by Mr. Dempster, who soon sold the Sapphire group to some of the most prominent men in Detroit, headed by Mr. N. D. Carpenter, of the U. S. Steel Co., and afterwards two other properties, the May and Exchange groups, were sold to other groups of capitalists. Late this summer Mr. Carpenter, accompanied by a party of interested friends and his consulting engineer, Mr. Choate, of Detroit visited the property with a view to the commencement of work on a large scale. The property did not, how-

ever, look as well as they had been lead to expect and after finding out that they had paid \$60,000 for what had been sold by the owners here for \$10,000, they went East feeling very sore against the camp, the promoters, and no doubt themselves. Mr. Choate remained some time, making a more exhaustive examination, and we now hear that his verdict is that the property is probably worthless. This verdict is, however, somewhat harsh, as there is certainly some good ore on the Sapphire. Now work has been suspended on the Sapphire and Exchange and things are in a bad way both here and in Detroit; everyone blames every body else, and you could not give away Slocan mining properties in Detroit. It would seem that the prop-

positions were 'turned' once, twice or more before reaching the present hands. That the blame in this affair be properly allocated and applied is devoutly to be hoped. Mr. Carpenter says that he is bound to find out how that \$50,000 was distributed and a fair amount of whip should fall on the shoulders of those who jumped at the bait without investigation." There may, of course, be more in the affair than at present meets the eye, but we fail to see how the Detroit capitalists can blame anyone but themselves. They seemingly bought a "pig in a poke" and paid half a dozen prices for it. Now they are indignant and astonished to find that the animal is a poor specimen.



Mining Men of the Province.—MR. HENRY CROFT.