

# British Columbia Mining Critic.

*"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."*—Shakespeare.

## British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Devoted to the Interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

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*Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining, mining machinery, mining laws, and matters relating to the mineralogical development of Canada, are always welcome.*

*Manufacturers and Dealers in appliances used in and about mines are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.*

*Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.*

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## INAPT COMPARISON.

When Mr. J. C. McLagan, at the recent Vancouver City Hall meeting, alleged and commented on the allegation, that British smelting enterprise had, as compared with American like effort, proved a failure in British Columbia, he quite overlooked the fact that the Hall Mines smelter, owned and directed by a British Company, is proving an increasingly successful enterprise. He also failed to remember that there were special and not wholly creditable local circumstances which certainly promoted the failure of a premature effort, made by misled English capitalists of but modest resources, to establish a small smelter in Vancouver in the early days of Terminal City history. British Columbian metal mining enterprise was at that time wholly in its infancy, and there was little indeed to warrant the effort then made, though the failure of the attempt was, it is true, facilitated by management not sufficiently skilled as regards the very special requirements of the enterprise. The smelters at Golden and Revelstoke were also more or less premature efforts, made, in at least one case, too largely in connection with townsite booming. And as Mr. Pellew Harvey did well to remind those present,

mous industries, that have literally taught American smelting men most of what they know of ore treatment. There is accordingly no reason to reject a smelter proposal, by virtue merely of its possession of a British origin, if only it be backed by sufficient skill applied on the spot, as it easily can be, and be supported also by sufficient British capital. On the other hand, did a choice lie between a mere London promoters' profit mongering scheme, having behind it no smelting industrialists' note, and the solid offer of well backed American metal men, we should certainly prefer the latter. It is, however, but fair to note that the English proposal now before the Vancouver City Council is stated to be endorsed by a world famous engineering firm in Messrs. Bewicke, Moreing & Co., who have, during long years, successfully connected themselves with many great mining endeavors and industries connected therewith. This circumstance, if correct, certainly puts the London offer on a much more solid foundation than it at first seemed to possess, and the City seems likely shortly to be in a position to choose between very fairly available alternative smelting offers, when each shall have been exactly formulated on the lowest basis open to mutual acceptance.

## A LARGE EFFORT.

There seems to be good reason to believe that leading financiers, officially connected with the directorate of the C. P. R., have decided, on mature consideration, with the aid of special transport and other facilities to be afforded by the great railroad, to establish and work at least one large precious metal ore smelter and refinery in the Kootenays, that will probably be located at Robson or some other convenient point thence not far distant. It is thus at least reported by a representative of the Montreal Star, a paper that is usually credited with very friendly and at times intimate connections with the C. P. R. It is, moreover, well known that the great men of the great railroad have in the past,