

from the country" now making in thousands for the Yukon. British travelers to Klondike will, if they have a grain of common sense, avoid Seattle as a city abounding in traps for the unwary, and full of unfair dealers. They will do well also to remember that thence have sailed and will sail north many rotten coffin ships, passed by lax or corrupt inspecting government officials. Already five, more or less rotten hulks steaming Yukonwards from the Sound, have been wrecked, nearly a hundred lives having thus been lost. Meanwhile not a single British ship has foundered on the Alaskan route. Let Britons and Canadians who would get safely and cheaply to Klondike, avoid Seattle as they would the plague.

The Klondike craze continues and increases its ill effects upon the sturdy mine workers of the Slocan. Hundreds more are now preparing to leave for the far north, whither more than a hundred men from the Slocan are already en route. As a result it is said that mine workers' wages in the Slocan will probably next season be increased by about a dollar a day on the average. On the other hand, the inrush of the Jap coolies to the Klondike country will assuredly there reduce workers' wages by 50 per cent. at least, and bring the labor remuneration of that hard and costly country to a relatively much lower level than that of the Slocan. No doubt a few Slocan men will in the Yukon "strike it rich," but most will bitterly regret their migration, physically well fitted though they are, and better able to cope with the rigors of the Klondike than nine of every ten of the miscellaneous mass of migrants to that region. There is, meanwhile, a natural feeling of temporary depression in the Slocan, resulting from the departure of so many good men. The rumor is, however, groundless that another outcome of the temporary exodus is the loss by Editor Lowery, of the New Denver Ledge, of all his wonted power of humor. The latest issue of the Ledge to hand sufficiently refutes this, though it is evident that he jokes with rather less ease than usual, and goes for the doubtful Mann-Macdenzie deal with more than wonted fierceness.

The people of Revelstoke are anxiously awaiting several things necessary to the continued progress of their growing town. The first, the protection of a large part of the townsite from destruction by the wash of the rapid Columbia river, is seemingly in *course of consummation*, the Provincial government having energetically taken the matter in hand, though for the time being the Dominion government declines the aid which it should give in the case. A second requirement, incorporation as a city municipality, seems also well on the way. Revelstoke, however, also needs greatly river navigation improvement and further road and trail construction in order to give access to and make the town the

distributing center of the Big Bend gold country, which though temporarily discredited by the Orphan Boy fiasco and other retarding influences, is nevertheless believed to be a district rich in the yellow metal.

The British Columbia Review, of London, Eng., states that the latest would-be promoter of a Klondike company in London is one Sheridan. This worthy has in his time promoted a lot of bubble companies, and is now in the bankruptcy court, likewise in goal, whither he is consigned for a blackmailing effort, which a stern English judge rightly considered in the nature of a criminal libel. Even a term in gaol seems, however, inadequate to restrain the swindling maneuvers of a certain unsavory class of British company promoters. Two other London promoters of fake Klondike companies are also in trouble. One is on trial for swindling, the other somewhere on the European continent, whither he has fled in possession of the money subscribed by confiding stockholders—several thousand pounds in all.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Klondike Bonanza flotation, made in London through a returned Yukon boomer, bearing the strange name of Iron-monger solo, has not proved altogether successful for its bonus-hunting chief promoters, though they went, it seems, to an allotment of stock. The prospectus of the concern had about it the characteristic signs of an undertaking to be studiously avoided by the careful investor. Shares in sufficient numbers seem, however, to have been taken to make it worth the promoters' while to go to allotment. The MINING CRITIC will note with interest, unleavened however by hope, the progress of the venture, which is based on the ownership of certain Bonanza creek claims, which are, according to men of Yukon experience, certain to become exhausted very speedily.

It is understood that the Chamber of Mines has already secured a membership of nearly fifty representative men. Other applications continue to be received by the acting-secretary, Mr. Taggart, especially for associate membership. He is also in receipt of many communications which heartily endorse the objects of the institution. The Chamber is, therefore, making steady and satisfactory progress, and it is expected that its board will soon get well to work. A statutory charter of incorporation will, it is expected, be obtained even this session, though to secure this, a waiver of the standing orders of the Provincial legislature will be necessitated.

Attorney-General Eberts' declaration that the Provincial government will, if and when necessary, protect by law precious metal miners' rights within the railway belt on Vancouver island, should, if