

C. H. Ludorf. . . . .

H. De Keyser Verbiest. . . . .

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**THE SPORTSMAN'S VIEW OF  
MINING STOCKS.**

The *Canadian Sportsman* published in Toronto, has a poor opinion of its contemporaries in that city. It thinks that the general public need expect no protection from the daily press in that city. Some of those, says the *Sportsman*, who control the Toronto newspapers, are mixed up in more than one mining scheme, and some have had big batches of gold mining stocks given them for puffs in their columns. If it were only the wealthy who were buying shares it would not matter a great deal how much they suffered by their credulity, but unfortunately there are thousands of working men and women who have invested the savings of many a hard years work in wildcat concerns. The *Sportsman* thinks that exploration and development companies, with nothing but rainbow-tinted, gold-bedizened script to exchange for the money invested, ought to be suppressed. Our opinion is that the law is sufficiently stringent, as it at present stands, to effectually suppress fraud by misrepresentation. In Canada, we believe, it is even preposterous in its severity on this subject. This, and much more to the same effect, which has not even the feature of novelty, flows from the pen of the *Canadian Sportsman*. We think that the mischief he deplores is overated however. The par value of stocks is placed so low nowadays that the smaller fry of investors like to dabble to a limited extent. We cannot conceive that they are so foolish as to put all their eggs in one basket. If the success of a mine was guaranteed the share value would be so high that few would have an opportunity of getting in. Such mines as were stocked would be close corporations, in which only a favored few would hold shares and participate in the profits.

Anyone with the most elementary knowledge of the subject, knows that mining is at the best, and under the most favorable circumstances, a gamble. All that can be absolutely guaranteed is what is in sight, and there are a hundred and one chances to take in the most promising. If all goes well the profits are immense. This is what makes mining ventures so attractive. If a stop is to be put upon this class of investment, the shortest cut would be to let the state stand loco parentis to the public, and dictate where it is to place its money. Would our sporting contemporaries propose prize fighting, aquatic and shooting matches as a legitimate exception?—*Ex.*

The Dominion Developing & Mining Company, Limited Liability, has sent notification to its shareholders through the *CRITIC* which is of great importance. It is contained in the inside back cover.

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