

HIS LAST OFFICIAL WORK.

Mr. D. J. Macdonald, who has just resigned the Provincial Inspectorship of Mines to enter the service of the British America Corporation, has returned from Boundary Creek district. On the way from Grand Forks he inspected the Winnipeg, Golden Crown, Old Ironsides, and other properties having men at work underground. Later he visited the Jewel and B. C. mines. He left at each mine a copy of the regulations that will sooner or later have to be conformed to, and notified those in charge of the mines having vertical ladders, that the regulations provide that ladders may not exceed twenty feet in length without a landing, and that they may not be placed vertically in the shaft. Other provisions for the protection and safety of the men passing up or down shafts or working below ground, were also shown. The appointment of such an inspector is consequently bearing very good fruit in securing safety and comfort for the Province's mine workers, and there is no doubt that Mr. Macdonald's successor, whoever he may be, will continue inspection work on the same lines.

THE GOLDEN RIVER QUESNELLE COMPANY.

This company, which has spent no less than \$300,000 on a vast work of river dam construction, hopes to make a first clean-up of part of the bed of the South fork of the Quesnelle river this season. British Columbia now awaits with engrossing interest the results thus accruing, as they should surely indicate whether a very great engineering enterprise is to prove a very large pecuniary success or, on the other hand, turn out a sadly disappointing failure. Almost everything seemingly depends on the success of the engineer's effort to combat giant water forces of nature and for certain seasons restrain their tremendous pressure above, and possibly in part also below the bed of the rapid Quesnelle river. That gold and much gold lies in the river's bed seems to be sufficiently assured. The question is, Can it be got out ere the water again rushes in to prevent all further working in, about and under the river's rocks and gravels?

BRITISH AMERICA CORPORATION.

A deal is on for the purchase of the Pathfinder mine, on the North fork of the Kettle river, by the British America Corporation, for \$90,000. A bond was given on the property a few weeks ago, and the London syndicate has been operating the mine with a large force. The deal is not yet consummated, but it is said by those who know that the Corporation will take up the bond upon the arrival of the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, within a few days. The Pathfinder is owned by the Pathfinder Mining, Reduction and Investment Company, Limited, of

Grand Forks. Most of the stock is held in Grand Forks and Rossland. The property is the principal claim on Pathfinder mountain, which is becoming famous for promising properties. It is about fifteen miles north of Grand Forks. The claim was located by Messrs. W. A. Pfeifer and T. I. Parkinson, and the latter has been president of the company and superintendent of the mine. It is said that no dead work has ever been done on the Pathfinder. A shaft has been sunk about sixty feet, and the ledge was cross-cut at that depth, showing a well-defined vein of good ore. A later shaft was sunk about 300 feet east of the first one, and here it is reported that thirty-two feet of clean ore was encountered, average assays of which gave about \$50 in copper and gold. The claim is equipped with the usual out-building, and the shafts with whims.

THE KLONDIKE HYDRAULIC, LIMITED.

At the recent statutory meeting held in London, England, in connection with this Alaskan (not Klondike) mining undertaking, the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Pye, stated that the vendor of the company's mine properties, a man named Rumble, had agreed to take his purchase money in ordinary shares, receiving in addition certain promoter's fees. The chairman, so far as he could remember, estimated that £52,000 or £53,000 of preference shares had been taken up, providing sufficient working capital. He added that the chairman of the company, Mr. Williams, had gone to Klondike (for which read "Alaska") to see if the company had really got the mine property and gold stated by the vendor. If so, the necessary mine machinery would be promptly put in, and Mr. Chairman pro-tempore Pye added that he thought (in which thought such a hazy informed gentleman is almost "dead sure" to be quite mistaken) that the mine machinery would be in order by August and a month's work got in this season. The MINING CRITIC ventures to predict, with a good deal of confidence, that the Klondike Hydraulic's stockholders won't receive any dividends worth mentioning from a company so curiously managed as is theirs—a company which gets in a large amount of capital long before even its directors are at all sure that the vendor of the properties they are acquiring is able to do what he promised, in the way of not only transferring rich Alaskan gold gravels, but also in handing over at far less than its cash value a big amount of gold said to have been actually got out. Under present circumstances only a fool will buy any stock in such a company as the Klondike Hydraulic—a concern which most reputable English financial issues have clearly exposed as a most dubious venture. To which desirable work of investor warning the MINING CRITIC is also well pleased to lend a helping hand.