

A SATISFACTORY PLEDGE.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy has, as Vice-President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., given the business men of Rossland what appears to be a fairly satisfactory assurance that the great railway company will, either by a branch of its own or by means of working arrangements with Mr. Heinze, involving the use of his railroad, afford to Rossland the much enlarged and greatly cheapened freight facilities which the district increasingly needs. The Company clearly "means business," and Mr. O'Shaughnessy accordingly gave an unmistakable hint to Mr. Heinze either to make easy terms for the C. P. R. or take the consequences in encountering most formidable opposition to his merely local railroad enterprise. "The C. P. R.," said Mr. O'Shaughnessy, "is a powerful company and we do not want to come in and crush Mr. Heinze." But as Mr. O'Shaughnessy previously told his interviewers, "Rossland is in C. P. R. territory and the Company will make such rates for the district in the future as it best may," having regard jointly of course to railroad profit earning and the needs of local mining development.

The C. P. R.'s Vice-President, however, went further and gave assurance to British Columbia through the men of Rossland to whom he spoke, that his Company "meant to see that Rossland ores are smelted in British Columbia," by providing all possible transit facilities and thus making it advantageous for Rossland mine owners in general to smelt most of their ores near home at some convenient point on Canadian soil. This point will, in Mr. O'Shaughnessy's opinion, be Robson, whither he promised that the Crow's Nest line should be carried by September next year, and begin from that time to carry coke to a smelter or smelters at such a rate as to enable it to be laid down for either \$5 or \$5.50 a ton. At such cost this great need of smelting and refining would be placed well at the command of precious metal treaters in the Robson district.

These statements should greatly encourage the mining men of Rossland, for if in due course verified by action—as the statements doubtless will be—it will become possible for not a few of the lower grade mines of Rossland to be developed largely and profitably, if the general values and extent of their ore deposits prove to be as

should mark also the beginning of a new and brighter era for precious metal mining in and about Rossland.

The people of that city claim that all the neighboring mines in general need are better and cheaper freight and ore treatment charges, which wants are apparently about to be supplied or made possible of very early supply, as a result of the promised action of the C. P. R. Granting this, it will shortly only remain for the men of Rossland to vindicate by results the greatness of the claim which they one and all assert for their camp, as a western centre of copper-gold production.

A NECESSARY WARNING.

Most British Columbians are probably aware that it is in the case of the ordinary man, however sturdy, simply madness now to make for Clondyke, just before the advent of that far northern land's hardest of winters. Nothing will be lost but everything gained by waiting patiently till spring ere thus making for the Yukon, save in the very exceptional cases of state and other officials whose services may be meanwhile required and whose access to the country will be promoted by very special efforts, made almost regardless of cost.

This will be "old news" to most here, but the *MINING CRITIC* is read by many in England and elsewhere far beyond the broad bounds of the Dominion and to them we would commend consideration of the following facts, ere possibly starting on a long journey, certain to be disagreeably and dangerously interrupted and equally certain to end disappointingly, if attempted at this late season.

Let any thus intending reader note that despite the richness of the finds lately made by the fortunate minority, many experienced Yukoners, including some of the most successful, are now leaving the country to avoid wintering there this season, and one reason they give is dread of actual starvation. There is not, they aver, nearly food enough to supply adequately the needs of some 5,000 people now in a land, whither at least 5,000 others are making, of whom perhaps a thousand may with difficulty arrive, the others either returning to coast cities or camping and in many cases probably dying en route, amidst the frozen snow of the mountains. The principal food supplies of the Yukon have up to now been borne thither via that great river by means—so far as the upper and mine district reaches are concerned—of several small steamers, capable only of conveying a comparatively modest aggregate tonnage of necessaries. They have carried to the Yukon this season more than