

that has come upon him; the awful scene on the balcony as he calls in the sunlight to the girl he loves, who is looking up at him from down below in the square, and even as he calls the shadow falls again on the tortured writhing soul; the way in which he hides his face in death—Poole's exclamation *It is my poor master* gives one the hope the change has come again, and that he died as Jekyll, not as Hyde—these are things which should be seen, and which are indeed, I think, beyond all criticism, stamping Mr. Mansfield as an actor of a most uncommon kind. Finally I should mention that Newcomen, Lanyon and the housekeeper in that terrible Soho room are parts that are admirably acted, but the rest of the company are below the average; and though I say that the play, except at the opening, was never dull to me, and that I thought it full of literary merit (two or three of the conversations are taken bodily from the story, yet the adaptor's work never jars with Mr. Stevenson's), I do not wish to scorn the opinion of those competent critics who have declared otherwise, only I think, like school boys, they wish us not to know how frightened they really were at the time, and so turn round now to try and laugh away all recollection of that fearful figure who, against their will perhaps, cannot have failed to have impressed and alarmed them.

As for Mr. Bandmann and his pitiable performance, what can I say? Do you remember how, in "Great Expectations," Mr. Wopsle essayed Hamlet? The German actor's attempt was as disastrous, his reading of the character as "massive and concrete," his self-complacency as enormous, and I am afraid he too, like Mr. Wopsle, was as totally unaware of the failure he had made. It has never been my lot before to sit through a scene almost identical with that written to introduce *The Infant Phenomenon*—only in this case we had to listen to a song, not watch a dance—never been my fate to have represented before me a series of scenes so ridiculously acted, so absurdly written. All I can say is that if Mr. Bandmann is tolerated in America by all means let him return to his admirers. Here I doubt if they would stand him at the Marylebone Theatre; I am sure they would not at the Standard.

WALTER POWELL.

MINING IN CANADA.

It is much easier to write a readable than a reliable article upon the mining interests of Canada. It is a pleasant thing for an enthusiastic Canadian, or even a sensation-mongering reporter, to go into rhapsodies over the boundless mineral resources of the country—to laud up this or that particular locality which he may, or may not, have visited, but which in some special way has attracted his notice—to enlarge upon prospecting, developing and enterprise, and to show to a demonstration how quickly and easily great fortunes are to be made in this direction. The temptation to do this has with many writers proved irresistible, and consequently a vast amount of arrant rubbish and silly exaggeration, and absolute mis-statement of facts have been thrown broadcast over the country, to the serious detriment in many cases of private and public industrial interests. So far has this been carried, and so often falsified by resultant experience, that there are many worthy Canadians who turn up their noses in thorough disgust at the very name of mining in Canada, and will have nothing to do with it in advancing capital, or encouragement of any kind.

Now we have no intention of throwing cold water upon national enthusiasm or speaking in any sense disparagingly of these undoubtedly grand natural resources of our country, but let us try to come down to the hardpan of solid truth in the matter, and consider some square bold-faced facts therewith, and we will be all the wiser and more profited thereby.

Now in the first place it is an indubitable fact that, with the exception of coal in Nova Scotia, and, for a short time, silver on Lake Superior, mining in Canada up to the present time has been almost wholly a lamentable failure—in proportion to the amount of capital expended, a disastrous bankruptcy. It would be an interesting, though not pleasing calculation, to find out the actual amount of money spent by private individuals and companies during the last twenty-five years in developing and working our mines, and compare this sum with the amount actually realized by the investors. Such a calculation never can be made, but we make bold to say that if it could, the total sum resulting on the wrong side of the balance sheet would be of a magnitude that would amaze and appall the calculator. Our backwoods are full of the melancholy memorials of this sad fact in the shape of long since deserted mines with their still standing, though crumbling buildings, rusty iron buckets, and ruined machinery. You come across them frequently and most unexpectedly in your tramps through the bush, all telling the same sad story of squandered thousands and blasted expectations. We are selfish enough to be glad that the great burden of this loss has been borne by our neighbours, and not ourselves.

Now, the causes of this failure in our mining enterprises are not far to seek. They are—

1st. The suppositious discoveries of ignorant, or unprincipled prospectors.

2nd. The exaggerated and sensational accounts of correspondents to newspapers dictated solely by local interests.

3rd. The feverish and unreasoning desire to make great and sudden riches.

4th. The utter lack of all business forethought, prudence and judgment, in embarking on these enterprises. In mining matters a kind of glamour seems to be cast over some of the wisest and most long-headed of men, making fools of them in the expenditure of their own capital, and rascals of them with that of other men. It is not until men engage in, and conduct mining operations on the some business principles as they carry on their other affairs, viz., on the basis of demand and supply, and on the expectation of a fair and reasonable profit on money and labour expended,

that these enterprises will be placed on their proper footing of value and safety. But so long as they regard every new find in the light of an Australian Ballarat, and themselves as second Caribou Camerons, or Bonanza Mackays, and will think of nothing less than millions, then they must expect disappointment and disaster.

That these are the main causes of failure in our mining matters in Canada is, we think, so potent to every thoughtful and rightly-informed mind, that we need not further consider them.

This leads us then, to affirm most emphatically that there is no lack of minerals, both precious and economic, within our bounds, though at the same time we have no reason for believing that Canada has been specially endowed above most other countries of the Western world with those gifts of nature. But as far as our honest, painstaking, and intelligent investigations have been carried, there is every ground for assurance of abundant success in this industry, if we only exercise common sense and business prudence in operating it.

From Cape Breton to Vancouver, and from the boundary line as far north as our geological explorations have been carried, expositions of every precious and economic mineral except tin, have been found, and as the country opens up and becomes accessible to labour and machinery, most of these will, without doubt, be utilized.

Now, there are certain imperative conditions under which mining as a business, must be gone into in order to secure success.

1st. Laborious searching and intelligent prospecting. This business is no boy's play, but the very toughest work a man can tackle. With his rubber blanket, hammer, and provisions he must camp out in all weathers and seasons, in the wildest and most inaccessible sections, and follow up like a sleuth-hound, every clue and trace of mineral. The prospector must also be to a certain extent a geologist, in so far at least, as to understand the dip, strike, stratification, and discriminating characters of the rocks.

2nd. There should be a certain amount of local development in the way of trenching, uncovering, excavating and blasting before the property is bought, and mining proper commenced. Prospecting is necessarily surface work, and however promising in appearance its finds may be, they should never be absolutely relied upon. This is specially true of gold and phosphate, the latter is the most deceptive mineral on the face of the earth. The work of two or three men, with a little dynamite for a few days, may save the loss of tens of thousands, or secure a profit of ten times the amount. At all events you have the satisfaction of doing a straightforward open-handed business both with yourself and others, and knowing what you are about.

3rd. Pluck and perseverance are indispensable requisites for success in mining. Work has been stopped on many of the abandoned mines I referred to above, before their worthlessness was fully proved. If it had been continued a little longer a valuable yield would in all probability have been abundantly given. But some men get discouraged very quickly if they don't at once strike gold. Now, in embarking on a mining enterprise, a man should make up his mind, not how much he expects to make, but what amount he can afford to lose, and to that extent he should be prepared to venture. Mining at the best is such a lottery sort of business that a man is a fool who invests his whole available means in its prosecution, but up to the mark which in his judgment he has limited himself, let him not be afraid of going, even although he is not taking in a stiver. A few feet more in depth, or laterally, may make all the difference in the world between a rich mine, and a worthless pit.

Our Ontario mining Act, take it in all, is a very fair one, but there is one point in which it should be greatly and speedily amended, and that is the license that is given to what may be called the wholesale slaughtering of our mineral lands. It is a crying shame and a barefaced robbery that a wealthy company or individual can buy up or hold lands for pretended mining purposes by the thousands of acres. Let these gentry buy as much as they please, but compel them, like the poor prospector who takes out a claim of 200 square feet area, to develop and work every fifty acres of the property within three months of the purchase, or forfeit the property. The present system is a practical tying up, and wasting of some of the most valuable resources of the country. It is amusing to read what newspaper reporters write about the liberal terms these land sharks offer to prospectors. They will allow them to locate and work claims upon their lands for a fixed term of years at ten per cent., or more, royalty according to the assay of the mineral per ton. No man in his sane mind will enter into such an agreement, except it be for perpetuity—a man might expend upon a good find he has discovered, ten, twenty, or fifty thousand dollars, then just when the mine is paying well his term may expire, and he forfeits the whole box and dice of it. Royalties at the best are ticklish and uncertain things, and if possible at all, are to be steered clear of. The Act thus amended should be made retrospective, so that vast tracts of land now held up in this way would be utilized and made of value to the country.

We are watching with great interest the proceedings of the Mining Commission. It is to be hoped that these gentlemen mean business. We want something of a thoroughly practical nature, in short, a strike of some kind to be determined on. The country will be satisfied with nothing less. We have had enough of shilly shallying, red tape, and old womanish business in our mining legislation of the past. There is one thing we hope the Commission will do for us, and that is, to tell us, not so much where the minerals are, as where they are not, so that prospectors may not waste their time and energies in examining barren oreless fields.

Above all things we hope the Commission will steer clear of all political party bias, and enunciate their determinations on the matters at issue before them with that clear, intelligent and experienced judgement, which we know characterize its individual members.

JOSHUA FRASER.