

While these men were preparing to return to their holdings and work them, the British Columbia Parliament, in session at Victoria, passed an alien exclusion act, depriving Americans from holding or acquiring, by purchase or otherwise, any claims in the province. Very few of the Atlin miners succeeded in getting their claims recorded, and under the operation of the alien act all such claims reverted to the crown. Thus the work of the vast majority of the American miners in the district has been lost. There is a strong impression that the

ects and crossed over into American possessions. The Porcupine mining district on the Dalton trail drew many, and several rich strikes are reported, but this, unfortunately, is still too near the indefinite border for the men to feel sure of the protection of the American mining laws.

The boundary question is one that should be settled at the earliest possible moment. The British Columbia mounted police have not been free from suspicion of maintaining a somewhat elastic border line that has been more than once stretched



AT THE MOUTH OF THE TUNNEL.

passage of the act is a part of a scheme to consolidate the interests of the whole region under the management of a syndicate—a Cecil Rhodes mining trust transferred from South Africa to northern British Columbia. The exclusion act was passed early in January, and proved a great surprise, not only to the Americans, but to the mass of the residents of British Columbia.

When the news of the exclusion act reached the Atlin miners, many became disheartened or threatened flight, but others more wise abandoned their Canadian proj-

to include districts of great mineral wealth. Such a charge has, indeed, been definitely made by the miners driven from the Atlin to the Porcupine claims. The fact is that the dividing line is by no means accurately known, and must be settled by a joint commission of England and the United States. It is to be hoped that Governor Brady's present visit to Washington will result in some definite steps being soon taken in this matter, which becomes of great importance as the surprising wealth and resources of the land are fully realized.