

more interest at West Australians, but Krugerism, the Raid, and South African politics have effectually killed all vitality in the Kaffir market. If British Columbia can be left alone a little while she may work out her own salvation. What we want here are well-known British Columbia companies, which have a reputation behind and in front of them like the Le Roi, and which could be trusted to go on paying dividends to English stockholders as in the past to Canadian stockholders. Half a dozen highly respectable dividend-paying companies would be the very finest advertisement in the world for British Columbia. So far we lack them. The B.A.C. promised us the Le Roi, and the *London Globe* and B.A.C. stockholders a big dividend this year. But the minority have apparently drawn down the curtain on this cheery prospect, and instead there is a vista of endless litigation, and disappointment. No doubt the lawyers will have a good time; but their good time will be at the expense of British pockets, and every disappointed shareholder in the group which floated the B.A.C. and in the latter will feel that it is British Columbia which has caused the hitch, and not a section of dissatisfied Yankees.

Another disappointment has been furnished by the Klondike Bonanza, a company formed by a Mr. Ironmonger Sola and presented as a Christmas box, or New Year's gift—I forget at the moment exactly which. This company seems to have got into difficulties at the very outset, and the company's agent who went out to complete the purchase was advised by the Canadian officials not to do so, pending further developments. Mr. Sola wrote a book, or pamphlet, over here which was rushed out in front of his company and formed an excellent advertisement for it. The firm who published it, the Mining and Geographical Institute, has also done a little promoting on its own account in order to help to make both ends meet. Sola seems to have been arrested, examined and then released. The company's agent cabled home asking for instructions, and Sola is also reported to have cabled very briefly his views. A meeting was held to consider the position last week and the proceedings were lively. Ultimately the meeting was adjourned for two months. I do not pretend to deal with the merits of the case. Mr. Sola may have been unfortunate, and he may yet be able to complete the transactions, but experiences such as these are not likely to make the public more in love with an inaccessible district, nor unfortunately do British Columbia any good seeing that the prominence given to the one region is shared for good or evil by the other. Failure for Klondike would be tantamount to temporary eclipse of British Columbia, and although leading authorities do not apprehend such an unpleasant denouement for either the Yukon territory or your Province. We who believe that mining in British Columbia will by and by rival the Rand in both its permanence of product, and profitable results upon the capital employed, hope that before the long-talked-of boom—predicted for May last—arrives the recent scandals in connection with company promotion on this side will have forced the Government to once and for all take in hand the question of the amendment of the Companies' Acts. They should at once frame such measures as will secure as far as may be possible the over-confiding country investor from the snares—"snare-certificates" the *Critic* somewhat wittily described them the other day—of the blood-suckers whose ferocity and rapacity have impaired the vitality

and strength of the home investor during the past few years. B.C. does not want a boom until the results of her leading lode districts prove beyond all possibility of cavil her claim to be regarded as the equal of the Rand. When dividends are in sight—dividends earned from mining and not from joint stock company flotation in London—people can begin to estimate the possible value of their share certificates. Until such time as this a boom would only benefit the few, promoters, stock-jobbers, etc., at the expense of the Province, and the home investor, and both the latter would suffer bitterly from inflation and the subsequent reaction.

A NEW DREDGE.

TESTS made recently at False Creek, Vancouver, with the model of a pneumatic caisson and air-lock elevator, invented by Garrison & Wood, have been remarkably successful, and we understand, in consequence, a company is shortly to be organized by Major Bennett, of Vancouver, to dredge on a large scale with this device on the Fraser



MODEL OF PNEUMATIC CAISSON AT WORK ON FALSE CREEK, VANCOUVER.

River, near Chilliwack. The model of the caisson and elevator are built into a scow for temporary purposes, but the permanent machine is to be placed on a stern-wheel steamer. The model itself has a caisson 5 feet by 8 feet, but the complete machine will be built of steel, and the caisson will be 10 feet by 20 feet, so as to allow six men to be at work at one time. Entrance to the upper air-closed chamber is obtained through an opening in the top, and when the workmen are all in, the opening is sealed up and the clamps over the opening to the lower chamber are removed, and the bed of the river is reached by means of a ladder. Before the workman goes on board, however, all the water will be removed from all the chambers by air pressure, which will vary from $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to 15 lbs. per square inch, according to the depth to be reached. On reaching the river bed, clamps are removed from the elevator shaft and the workmen begin excavating, and shovel the dirt into a bucket in the elevator.

THE MONTH'S MINING.

ALBERNI.

The only notable development work now being carried on is by the following companies: 1st. The Forfarshire Mining Company, under the supervision of Mr. Bonthron, M. E., at Anderson Lake. This Company holds a large area of ground, and are doing good development work on immense bodies of ore, the surface work disclosing a succession of seven or eight short lodes running parallel to each other and forming a mineral zone of 1,000 to 3,000 feet in width. Some of these lodes have been stripped on the side of the mountain, showing their continuity for a depth of 150 feet or more. A tunnel has also