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THE MONTH.

THE collapse of the Golden Cache Company—which may just possibly not be final, though things look ominous enough—has and will for some time have a very injurious effect on the local stock markets, Lillooet and Bridge River stocks being naturally, however, more particularly affected. But this is relatively a very unimportant detail resulting from the dis-

closures revealed to the unfortunate shareholders of this Company at the meetings held on the seventeenth and twenty-third of November. These revelations are of the most serious nature and may almost be regarded as prima facie evidence of most regrettable and apparently wrongful concealment on the part of the directorate for more than a year of damaging facts regarding this property, during all of which time investors were allowed, led by glowing press reports, doubtless more or less inspired, to believe that the Golden Cache had a future before it as bright as the mine's own name, and as a result not only were the price of shares maintained at an absurdly high valuation, but heavy purchases were made in them by both English and Canadian investors, the president of the company, Mr. J. M. McKinnon—who, by the way, shamelessly showed the white-feather by resigning his office and temporarily (we suppose) leaving the country previous to the meeting the other day—and other directors (we except Messrs. Robertson and Hamilton), actually acting as brokers for the sale of Golden Cache shares, receiving commission on such sales. In June of last year Mr. J. A. MacFarlane, F. C. S., of Vancouver, concluded a series of reports on the property of the most unfavourable nature, asking at the same time to be relieved from a managerial position, in which he felt he could be of little service, his observations, so far as he could judge, having tended to show no real prospect of profit

earning from the mine. This report was posted to the secretary of the company on the 27th of June, and within a very short time after, in the natural order of things, it should have been brought to the attention of the directors, yet Mr. MacQuillan, then acting as Vice-President of the Company, sold, we believe, on behalf of another concern with which he was associated, the Dominion Development Company, a large block of shares at the boom price of \$1.80 per share. Mr. MacQuillan explains his conduct in this respect by stating, first, that in spite of repeated protests on his part important information and correspondence appertaining to the Company's business was frequently withheld from him, and secondly, that when he saw Mr. Macfarlane's report at a Board meeting in July, 1897, he had expressed the view that no credence should be placed in it, as in his opinion Mr. Macfarlane had adopted this means of venting his spleen for his discharge from the Company's service. It is fair in Mr. MacQuillan's case to state our belief that there is much that is plausible in his account, and it is well known that he has strenuously advocated, almost from the commencement, the engagement of a duly qualified and independent mining engineer to thoroughly examine and report upon the Golden Cache property; at one time, offering, in fact, on the part of the Dominion Development Company, to defray the entire cost of such a proceeding. Not only was this offer not accepted, but Mr. J. D. Kendall, of the firm of Bewicke, Moreing & Co., whose high professional standing is known to every member of the Golden Cache directorate, was refused permission to examine the property on behalf of English clients. It is something also in Mr. MacQuillan's favour—though not very much—that at the meeting last month he publicly apologized to Mr. Macfarlane for the false construction he had placed upon that gentleman's eminently honourable and straightforward conduct, which led him much to his then detriment to report as he did on the prospects of the mine. But Mr. MacQuillan cannot say that he was not a party to the suppression of Mr. Macfarlane's reports from the public.

With regard to other directors, Mr. Skene seems to have been more sinned against than sinning, being himself a heavy loser, as likewise Mr. W. Robertson and Mr. Robert Hamilton, who are not in the public mind associated with the suspicion of deliberate wrong-doing, which certainly attaches to some of their colleagues, although, of course, they must share with them any blame on the general charge of bad management. Meanwhile, after these matters had been more or less intelligently discussed at the first November meeting, a committee of five shareholders was appointed to confer with the directors to devise some plan for securing funds to meet the Company's present liabilities and also for the continuance, if deemed advisable, of operations at the mine. This committee recommended the issue of debentures to the amount of \$15,000 to effect these purposes, as being in the best interests of the shareholders, in the