

# British Columbia Mining Critic.

*"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."*—Shakespeare.

## British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Devoted to the Interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

THURSDAY,.....JULY 15, 1897.

Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining, mining machinery, mining laws, and matters relating to the mineralogical development of Canada, are always welcome.

Manufacturers and Dealers in appliances used in and about mines are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.

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### HIGHLY SUPPOSITIOUS.

The MINING CRITIC has already noted, as a very doubtful venture, the Harris-Fraser River Gold Recovery Co., Ltd., the promoters of which seek to induce the British investor to take stock in a concern capitalized in £100,000 to work a twenty years' dredging lease on the Fraser near Harrison, subject to a rental of \$300 or £60 per annum and the usual provincial royalty on gold gotten. The delusive nature of the suppositions on which are founded hopes of the success of this company in a direction in which all previous attempts have failed, is well shown by the following quotation from the promoters' prospectus: "If," says that document, "the actual find by Chinamen, with their crude appliances, averages five shillings per cubic yard, the profits derivable by the use of machinery in deep and rocky places of the river will be fabulous indeed." There is "much virtue"—so too often much vice—in an "if," and in this instance the little word implies a non-existent circumstance. If Chinamen could get \$1 25 cents for every cubic yard of Fraser gravel worked by them, then truly the profits of such a company as this Fraser-Harris concern might be fabulous in their largeness. And if

thus make several dollars a day easily, and their successful example would tempt many hundreds of poor white folk as well as Mongols to richly productive gravels. But neither of these things happens, and the Fraser river placer-working Mongol certainly, as a rule, only earns a very moderate wage, probably not exceeding 75 cents to \$1 a day. Hence the London *Statist* rightly avers that "fabulous" is the very adjective to apply to the crafty hypothesis of the Harris-Fraser River Gold Recovery Co., Ltd. And, as we have previously observed, there is all the difference in the world between placer gravel working for gold and deep river dredging in a rapid boulder-encumbered stream like the Fraser. Placer gravel working often pays; hitherto all attempts to dredge the Fraser's depths and thus get out whatever gold there may be there have proved conspicuous failures. The British public are therefore asked in anything but a straightforward way to take a very doubtful chance indeed in backing the Harris-Fraser concern, and they will probably do well to let it severely alone as men here certainly would, if asked to invest to any considerable extent in the venture. We are glad, therefore, to note that the leading English financial papers "cold-shoulder" the undertaking.

### ENVIOUS MONTANA.

Montana men are very envious of the growing precious metal mining attractiveness of Alaska and B. C., more especially the latter. They accordingly laud to the skies Montana's opportunities, and some of them blame their local press for failure to advertise these duly to the world. Mr. Floyd-Jones delivered himself in this strain at great length in a paper, recently read at Helena, Mont., to the members of the Press Association of that State. Said Mr. Floyd-Jones: "There is no necessity for me to dilate to men as well posted as you on the gold camps of Montana, you all know them and their possibilities with sufficient capital; and you know that the streets of our towns and cabin mining