

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.

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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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KEEP AWAY FROM CLONDYKE.

"Keep away from Clondyke till spring," is what we would yet again advise all would be gold seekers in the far north, at the risk even of being accused of "damnable iteration." We deem it the more needful to give this emphatic warning, as at least one noted contemporary of wide circulation and great influence still makes every little editorially of the present news of disaster impending in the Yukon, whilst continuing in the face of very scanty remittances of gold dust from that much overrated region, to print "boom" interviews, which make the very most of quite exceptional instances of lucky finds.

Fortunately the mischief that might otherwise thus be done, is greatly lessened by the admissions made by the men interviewed. Thus one McNamee, whose statements appear in last Saturday's "Colonist," declares that there will be no work in the Yukon this winter for at least 3,000 men in addition to those already in the country." But he previously mentions the very awkward fact that though there may be work and even gold dust, there will certainly be no food and is certainly much starvation at Dawson City and elsewhere. Mr. McNamee, who seems to be a decent, hard working fellow, who has struck it fairly rich," though probably not near-

ly so rich as a newspaper on the "boom" would fain lead its readers to infer, is also compelled in honesty to state that he, being a Yukon man who has seen things on the spot, does not believe travellers' tales which talk of the winning of \$500 to the pan or relate the finding of monster nuggets, the biggest yet thawed out having, as he says, been one of \$250 only—good enough certainly and as certainly a rare find—but not by any means phenomenal nor indicative that the Clondyke region is so rich as to make small by comparison the vile climatic circumstances, barren desolation and other ills too numerous to mention, with which the land is cursed.

Nothing has yet occurred to prove that the Yukon is half so good as was old Cariboo, and certainly nothing has come to light to show that the far north gold country will in permanence of yield, as associated with facility and cheapness of output, begin to compare in solid natural worth with such a precious metal country, for instance, as Southern Kootenay.

So we repeat, "let every would be Clondyke venturer, save official messengers of mercy, whose services seem but too likely to be sorely needed, keep away from the Yukon until spring," remembering that there already at more than one point are hunger and cold, with an almost certain prospect of violent disturbance by desperate and starving men in the early future. Victoria's "boom" of the Yukon is already proving a veritable "boomerang," whilst so disgusted already are hosts of wayfarers from Seattle, misled to their ruin by the "boomsters" and boom leaders of the Sound that they are said to be seriously thinking of lynching an ex-mayor of that city who has, for the sake of sordid gain, been foremost in the work of deception.

EASIER TRAVEL TO THE YUKON.

THE MINING CRITIC, as its readers must note, thinks altogether overrated the possibilities of the Yukon, when considered in relation to the present difficulties of access to and hardships attendant on life in that bleak and barren far