

## CORRESPONDENCE.

EDITOR R. C. MINING RECORD:—Some time since I read with much interest the article by Mr. W. Pellew-Harvey, F.C.S., in the Christmas number of your paper. On coming in from an extended trip in the mountains a few days ago, I was surprised to see the attack made on Mr. Harvey and his article, in the Canadian Mining Review. I desire to say that having watched for a year and a half past the endeavors of Mr. Harvey to build up the mining business in British Columbia, and knowing something of the reputation he enjoys among prospectors and mining men generally, I consider the attack unwarranted and uncalled for, and with your consent should like to fully answer it in the next issue of your valued paper.

Yours truly,

S. J. MARSH.

*Mining Engineer.*

Victoria, B. C., March 11, 1896.

## The Spokane Mining Convention.

EDITOR MINING RECORD:—Below is the summary report of the meeting of the Northwest Mining Association, held in Spokane, Wash., February 22nd, 1896. Meeting convened at 9.30 a. m., with President G. B. Dennis in the chair, and about 100 officials of the Association being present. After an address of welcome by Mayor H. N. Belt, the secretary stated the objects of the meeting, and the president outlined, in an able address, the plans, purposes and work done by the association. He was followed by Judge W. B. Heyburn, of Osburn, Idaho, who spoke at considerable length on "Extra Lateral Rights" and presented the only true solution of this knotty problem yet offered to the miners of this section. In the afternoon, John C. Davenport, of Nelson, B. C., addressed the convention on "Pioneer Mining." N. E. Lindsay, of Spokane, followed with the subject "How can we Improve the Mining Industry through this Organization." "Needed Legislation" was the subject of an address by A. F. Parker, of Grangeville, Idaho. William M. Pinkston, of Boundary City, Wash., spoke on "Good Roads." L. K. Armstrong followed with a brief address on "The Importance of Geological Surveys." S. G. Cosgrove, of Pomeroy, Wash., spoke at some length on general matters. A large number of telegrams and letters were read from absentees. General discussion followed, being participated in by A. P. Curry, C. H. Thompson and others, of Spokane; W. C. Butler, of Everett, Wash.; D. M. C. Gault, of Hillsboro, Oregon; Judge Heyburn, of Osburn, Idaho; H. C. Walters, of Libby, Mont.; F. A. Weber, of Lakeview, Idaho, and others. The meeting then adjourned after a brief session of detail work, and in the evening the citizens of Spokane tendered a banquet to the visitors, which was participated in by about 125 persons.

The next annual meeting of the Association will occur October 3rd, next, and will be of three or four days duration. The Association has vice-presidents in all of the districts of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, British Columbia and Washington, and the membership is increasing daily.

It is stated that the citizens of Butte, Mont., propose to invite the officials of the Association to convene it in that city at an early date.

Very respectfully,

L. K. ARMSTRONG, Secretary.

## Why Mining Becomes a Failure.

The question is asked: "What is the most common cause of failure in mining? Most people would probably reply: "Want of a good mine on which to work." But one whose business has caused him to observe methods of mine management in various regions, over long intervals of time, might question whether a better answer would not be: "Want of good mine management." So many instances are remembered where failures can be attributed to this cause alone, that the answer is at least worthy of consideration. Bad management takes such a multitude of shapes that it is

almost impossible to describe it, unless it be described in the general term "ignorance of mining." Its most common form is seen in the wasting of ore. A general proof of the facts is found in the hundreds of dumps which have been hand-sorted over and over at a profit. There is an old saying that "a good workman can be known by his chips," and with equal truth it can be said that "a bad mine manager can be known by his dumps." One thing that is indispensable in a mine manager, is an appreciation of the necessity of thoroughly understanding the nature and value of his ore. He may not be able to understand that ore himself, but if he appreciates its importance, he can employ someone who does understand it to take charge of necessary work. The world sees the evidence of waste in the dumps that lie in the daylight, but there is a still greater source of waste that is hidden from the public in the dark stopes of the mine. Every practical man knows how often the ore is knocked down in the stopes, and there partially sorted, and the supposed waste left upon the stulls. If ore sorted by daylight loses much of its value in the waste, what is the loss liable to be in the dark, narrow and cramped stopes? Who, that is competent to hand-sort ore, gives, in the great majority of instances, any attention to this portion of the work? As a rule, the miner is allowed to have his own sweet will in this labor, and his own sweet will is too often to do that which is easiest, instead of that which is best, even if he knows what is best. This is but one kind of waste, and the commonest one, of bad management, where scores might be mentioned. It is not all mines that require the constant services of an assayer, but a good many more than receive them do require them, and would find them the most valuable of all possible investments.—*The Ledge.*

## Cariboo Gold.

The Cariboo Gold Fields, Ltd., a very strong English syndicate, with headquarters in London, England, and offices at Barkerville, B. C., is working the placer mines on Williams Creek, in the Cariboo, and the work is being done on a big scale. Williams Creek is the district where, a good many years ago, about \$25,000,000 in gold was taken out. Then, however, the ground was worked in a crude way, notwithstanding the fact that it yielded so generously. It is the opinion of experts that there is at least as much of the yellow metal in the ground now as was taken out. Considerable preparatory and development work has already been done, and the prospects are so bright that the company has decided to put in an extensive hydraulic plant. Williams Creek is about 270 miles from the Canadian Pacific road at Ashcroft, which distance has to be covered by stage. As an instance of the difficulties and expense to be met, it costs six cents a pound to have all the pipe and machinery necessary for the hydraulic plant sent up, and Mr. Whittier, the manager of the company, estimates that the cost of transportation will be \$50,000.

## A New Map.

A new map of a part of the Cariboo District, drawn on a large scale, and showing the locations of the principal hydraulic mines on the Quesnelle River and its tributaries, has been published by Messrs. Thomson Bros., Stationers, Lithographers, &c., Vancouver, B. C. Price, \$1.00.

This map is compiled by Messrs. Garden, Hermon & Burwell, Engineers and Surveyors, from personal examination of the country and other reliable sources of information, and it is the only map showing the position of the different hydraulic mines in that district.