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MINING NEWS.

The following remarks re Virtue, which appeared in a recent issue of the "Mail & Empire," are as ludicrous as those of a morning contemporary which spoke of the Cumberland mine as "A Prospect."

"Virtue, which is a pooled stock, can be easily manipulated. It will be remembered that Cariboo-McKinney was similarly "pooled" that is, all but a small portion of the stock was not allowed to come on the market. It was easily manipulated to 180, but is now unsalable at 80. These pooled stocks are dangerous for the public to have anything to do with. Unusually, when the "psychological moment" comes for pulling out the plug, the public find themselves loaded up with the stock, while the manipulators make off with the money. Virtue sold from 103¾ to 107½ today."

The writer of the above whatever he may know of Cariboo-McKinney, either knows absolutely nothing of the Virtue-Collateral Co., or is guilty of a desire to mislead his readers.

In the first place the stock is not pooled all holders of the stock are at perfect liberty to sell or hold as they consider best. The recent advance in the price of the stock, has been strictly in line with improvement in the property, the result of nine or ten months development. The largest holders who are some of Montreal's best known and respected citizens bought the stock when the general public turned it down, but they were satisfied with their bargain and recent developments have demonstrated the wisdom of their choice. The fact is that the public are just beginning to realize that "Virtue" is one of the best if not the best stock in its class on the list, but the stock which is being absorbed by them is not the stock of the insiders, who bought it for investment and not for speculation. The public will never find themselves loaded up with Virtue. This stock and the men who control it are not in the same class as Cariboo-McKinney.

War Eagle sold yesterday at 165, an advance of some seventeen points caused, it is said, by the settlement of the trouble between miners and the owners in the Rossland camp. Rather a fancy price to pay for the stock of a played out mine, grossly mismanaged in the past, and whose future is decidedly cloudy. If War Eagle is worth these figures, Virtue is easily worth \$5.00. Of the two we would buy Virtue.

Two pictures—War Eagle at present figures is equal to a capitalization of something like \$3,300,000. Virtue at 1.16 is equal to a capitalization of \$2,320,000.

Ore reserve in War Eagle none. Ore reserve in the Cumberland considerably over \$1,000,000. Nine months work in War Eagle exhausted the ore reserves. Nine months work in the Cumberland increased them at about the rate of \$80,000 per month. Insiders in War Eagle when the mine was nearly depleted of ore talked about increased dividends. Insiders in Virtue, with one million dollars in sight, decline to make any statement about dividends. To the individual of average intelligence it will not be difficult to decide as to which picture it is most desirable to possess.

THE SLOCAN.

During the first 18 days of March there was more ore shipped over the K. & S. line than in many a month before. The million-pound mark was even topped. The Payne, always ahead, is resuming shipments at the old rate, and the Last Chance is steadily shipping. The detailed figures from March 1st to 18th are as follows:—

	Pounds.
Last Chance.....	280,000
Payne.....	728,000
Rambler.....	82,000
American Boy.....	42,000
Florida.....	35,000
B. N. A. Mine.....	38,000
Gibson.....	12,000

Total.....1,213,000

The International, Whitewater, is putting in a gasoline air compressor, the first of its kind in Kootenay.

Some beautiful samples of almost native copper ore were recently taken from the Copper King claim on the north fork of the Lardeau near Circle City. The samples are an excellent indication of a big body of high grade copper ore in that district—the sample shown would run about 80 per cent. copper. The Copper King was located by Lou Thompson, a well known prospector and it is now owned by H. C. Dier, who has had a fair offer of cash for this prospect.

Great improvements are being made at the Hartney, which, when completed, will have an important bearing upon the town. A new bunkhouse is being erected, along side the old one. It will be two stories high, modern in its equipment, and will accommodate 50 men. In addition to this a large ore house will be built. The force has been increased to 19 men, and this will be largely augmented when the new buildings are completed. Another tunnel will then be commenced lower down the hill, which will afford an ample test to the value of the property. The management is liberal in its views and and money, and its orders are to make the Hartney a mine as soon as possible. Its money also stands ready to begin work on the Silver Mountain wagon road so soon as the government grant is available.

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