

to miners were not only acted upon but the idea "expanded" by the Cabinet, so that intending miners will be obliged to apply in person for their licenses thus necessarily compelling aliens to call at a Canadian city.

YUKON
MOTHER
LODE.

So according to the Victoria daily papers the mother lode from whence all the gold of Klondyke originally came was found not long since, but alas! only to be lost again. We really forget how

many columns of closely printed matter were occupied with accounts of this remarkable discovery, but there were many; and then the head lines—how fearfully and wonderfully striking! When a day or so afterwards the truth of the report was denied *in toto* by a returned miner fresh from the scene of the alleged find the denial was chronicled, but obviously the need for "flash headings" was no longer there. Meanwhile had we accepted the description as given by the *Colonist* of the several places this accommodating lode cropped up in as correct, its "sinuosities" would have done credit to a boa constrictor in the throes of mortal agony; the performance of the greatest human contortionist would not have been in it. The Klondyke boom is all very well in its way. It will mean in all probability a great deal to British Columbia by attracting a world-wide attention to our own rich mining districts, and it is also at present a capital thing for the papers in what is generally a slack season for news, but never has the occasion required the assumption of the *cum grano salis* attitude from newspaper readers more decidedly than now when Yukon yarns of the "tall" variety are retailed almost daily and help to incite ordinarily sober-minded people to a determination to join the mad rush to the frozen north. It must be remembered that no class in the world, except, perhaps, sailors, are so imaginative as miners, and when this talent is assisted by insidious suggestions of the festive reporter, the result is not infrequently truly appalling, not to say *Haggard*. Not for purposes of argument, but merely for the satisfaction of stating a curious fact it may be pointed out that neither in Cariboo nor in Alder Gulch, Montana, districts were the phenomenal results from placer diggings followed by discoveries of rich quartz lodes. In Yukon the quartz mines must needs be extraordinarily valuable to admit of profitable working.

A MINE
INSPECTOR.

In view, perhaps, of the recent accidents to mine workers at Rossland, the tragic death of the late Captain Hall, superintendent of the Le Roi mine, being a lamentable instance, the Government's hand has been so to speak somewhat forced in the matter of the appointment of an Inspector of Mines, and the result is that this position has been temporarily bestowed on Mr. D. J. McDonald, erstwhile manager of the Galena Farm mines on Slocan Lake. The appointment is an excellent one and the Government are receiving the congratulations of the up-country papers on the choice of a capable man thoroughly fitted to perform the duties of his office in a satisfactory manner. Mr. McDonald has had a long and varied experience of all classes of mining and has earned for himself an enviable reputation for trustworthiness and reliability.

B.A.
CORPORATION

When with a great flourish of trumpets the launching of the British America Corporation, Limited, was announced

to have taken place in London, the news was received in this country with feelings of most unqualified gratification. In fact it seems that the organization in England of so big a concern with a board of really influential directors, and with the relatively speaking enormous capital of one million and a half pounds sterling, for the purpose of acquiring and operating mine properties in British Columbia, should be regarded as a very significant event in evidence of increasing confidence among British investors in the future of the province's mining potentialities. And so undoubtedly it is. London interest has been stimulated lately to a marked degree, and the day is now measurably near when the amount of British capital invested in British Columbia will be great enough to render previous American expenditures insignificant. It is for this very reason that so keen an interest is taken by those who have the welfare of our mining industry at heart, in the operations of English companies, and why so much notice is taken of the deplorable instances of London promotion swindles in connection with the mines of the province. Mismanagement and culpable misrepresentation of facts, are practices that have already unhappily resulted in loss to investors and will inevitably damn the country. With regard, therefore to the British America Corporation, it is a matter for grave regret that its career should have been commenced under the inauspicious circumstances commented upon by our Nelson correspondent. How is the incidence of an unreliable prospectus to be excused away when upon its character for reliability shares must necessarily be bought and sold. This company's prospectus, as published in the London financial papers, a copy of which we have before us, leads us to take for granted that the company had made all arrangements for the acquirement of certain valuable properties—notably the Rossland Le Roi mine and the assets and good will, as a going concern, of the Alaska Commercial Company. From the public denials of the directors of both of these corporations no such arrangement was ever effected. The deduction is obvious. Again without wishing to insinuate in any way that the company's managing director, the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, is not a capable man, it is certainly fair to question whether he has sufficient training or experience to enable him to purchase mines to the best advantage; and some of Mr. Mackintosh's recent somewhat rash goings on seem to demand criticism. It is to be hoped that the company will at once see the wisdom of retaining the services of a thoroughly competent man as consulting mining engineer. If this is done there are the strongest grounds for believing that the B.A. Corporation will become a great factor in advertising the resources of British Columbia abroad.

A correspondent writing from Sandon EXPECTED expresses the opinion, based on his EXODUS OF numerous conversations with miners MINERS. working in the neighbourhood and elsewhere, that there will be a general exodus of this class of workmen to the Yukon in the spring. The men are from all accounts saving their earnings and some are already making their arrangements for their journey. The fear is entertained that there will be some difficulty in Kootenay this summer in securing mine labour; but this, we think, is entirely reasonless. A large proportion of the Kootenay miners have followed prospecting many