

# British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

Vol. I, No. 38. VANCOUVER, B.C., SATURDAY, JAN. 15, 1898. PRICE 5 CENTS.

## NOTICES.

All communications intended for THE EDITOR should be sent direct to

THE EDITORIAL OFFICES,  
319 CANBIE STREET,  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

*The British Columbia Mining Critic is published weekly in the interest of Mining, Finance and Commerce, and for the protection of investors.*

*Subscription, Two Dollars a year, payable in advance.*

FRANK S. TAGGART,  
Editor and Managing Director.

## British Columbia Mining Critic

Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd.

Publishing Offices: 401 and 403 Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

## EDITORIAL.

### A FARCICAL MEETING.

The recent general meeting of the stockholders of the Orphan Boy Gold Mining Company did nothing to prevent the liquidation of the undertaking, by order and under the control of the High Court. It, however, made clear the fact that Mayor Templeton, of Vancouver, as trustee for himself and a number of other well-known Terminal City men, and J. W. Haskins, together held most of the stock of the company, which came to hopeless grief under the management—save the mark—of the last-named gentleman. The meeting was, also, signalized by a final effort, made by the secretary, Mr. Brown, to secure by way of salary and indemnity against costs incurred by him in certain recent legal proceedings, quite a large share of the remaining cash in the company's much-depleted treasury. The final meeting of the Orphan Boy concern indeed was in keeping with all the company's previous procedure, and the sooner the curtain drops on the money-squandering farce after, it is to be hoped, full scrutiny of the company's accounts by the court, the better. The proceedings of the concern under a salary-grabbing management, otherwise remarkable only for equal want of scruple and capacity, have retarded more than a little the development of an important gold-bearing district of the Kootenays. Presumably the

Orphan Boy undertaking will in due course be reorganized, and the claim for the first time really tested. This, too, let us hope, after the experience of the past by straightforward and efficient methods. And the present chief controlling owners of the Orphan Boy will act equally justly and expediently if they do something for the former stockholders, by whose loss they will gain very considerably if the Orphan Boy should prove—as some still think it will—a mine.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is to be hoped that the report will prove well founded that the Dominion Government means to revise and reduce the excessive royalties proposed to be levied on the extremely hard-won gold of the Yukon. A levy of 5 per cent. should, in addition to registration and license fees, prove more than ample, as the authorities at Ottawa will without such a levy raise a large and ample revenue from the Yukon, and, as usual with them, make a goodly profit by the far West. Allowing for the maintenance of 400 police and a number of other officials, and for a certain amount of road and trail making and other public work, it may be fairly assumed that the administration of the Yukon will not cost in 1898 more than \$2,000,000. And if, as expected, nearly 200,000 people then enter the territory, it is quite safe to assume, judging by the customs and inland revenue contributed by 130,000 people in British Columbia, that the Yukon will this year send to Ottawa at least \$2,000,000 in customs and excise returns. Then there will be big receipts from licenses of various kinds,

Mr. Patrick Comisky, chairman of the Vancouver and British Columbia Transportation Company, Limited, stated at a recent meeting in London of the company's shareholders that in connection with the Galena mines flotation there were expended £600 in registration fees, £289 in bank charges for money lent to facilitate the effort, and £600 in newspaper advertising. The items of cost were, as he explained, heavy, but they "had to do the business quickly." Quite so, the Galena mines flotation was one of those evil efforts which have to be rushed, in order to lure investors into participation,