

In fact it may be fairly described as vituperative. Consequently it does not require further attention. But we regret that no attempt has been made to answer any of our criticisms.

That Mr. Hutchins' articles are misleadingly depreciatory may be inferred from his statement about the climate of the Klondike. To prevent misconception we shall quote this passage verbatim:—

'In the Klondike, May 1st. is about the earliest in normal years that dredging can begin; but owing to the superficially frozen ground, which is found even in the milder areas, such as the Klondike valley, it is rarely advantageous to begin so early. Besides even at that season the day and night temperatures approximate 50 degrees F. and —15 degrees respectively. Dredging can be continued until October 15th, when the day and night temperatures are about 30 degrees F. and —15 degrees F. respectively.' We interpreted this in our criticism as follows:— "The extraordinary statement is made that the average night temperature on the first of May and on the fifteenth of October is fifteen degrees below zero F.," which seems to us the only rational interpretation possible.

Mr. Hutchins in his reply, however, says, "I said nothing about average temperatures. I cited figures to show the extreme night and day temperatures." We shall, for arguments' sake, allow Mr. Hutchins' version to stand, although these two statements are manifestly contradictory. But even his last statement is far enough from the truth to need serious correction. Fifteen degrees below zero has never been officially recorded in the Klondike either in May or October. The Canadian Meteorological Service has been taking temperature observations in the Klondike for a number of years. The lowest temperature that has ever been recorded officially in the Klondike in May is 5 degrees above zero F. and the lowest October record up to the 31st of the month (not the 15th) is 10 degrees below zero F. The weather therefore, at such times of the year, is not nearly so cold as Mr. Hutchins would like us to believe. In fact his damaging statement about the climate is but in keeping with the general tone of the whole article.

On several occasions it has been our duty to expose or correct inflated accounts of mining properties in different parts of Canada. It is equally our duty not to allow a grossly derogatory description of one of the greatest mining camps in Canada to go unnoticed and uncorrected.

"THE FALLS OF NIAGARA."

Some weeks ago we referred with pain to the possible publication of Dr. Spencer's "Falls of Niagara." We spoke warmly, not that we wished to interfere with the worthy author's desire to see himself in print, but because we thought that the volume should not appear under the aegis of the Geological Survey of Canada.

However, the book appeared. We preserved a silence equalled only by our desire to express our feelings. That silence we shall observe. Yet we are forced to notice briefly a scathing review of Dr. Spencer's tome that appeared in a late issue of our exceedingly outspoken contemporary, *The Mining and Scientific Press*, of San Francisco.

The *Press* vivisects "The Falls of Niagara" in a style that is all its own. It rubs salt into the incisions. "This," it remarks, "is the delirious trimmings of scientific literature."

To all this we shall say neither "yea" nor "nay." But we shall point out one error into which our contemporary has fallen.

The credit (or otherwise) of the appearance of the volume under consideration lies neither with the Acting Director of the Survey nor yet with the brilliant and energetic editor. The latter, indeed, stands absolved from all complicity.

The facts appear to be that Dr. Spencer insisted upon holding the Survey to an ancient contract, made under a former regime. And in his preface the author, albeit somewhat obliquely, states that he himself, and only he, is the person responsible.

We hope, then, that the *Mining and Scientific Press* will relieve itself of the misconception that "The Falls of Niagara" is the acknowledged child of the Geological Survey. The Survey's child it is, but it was found upon the doorstep.

THE NEED OF PROSPECTING.

Mr. Leach, in his paper read before the Canadian Mining Institute, refers to the small amount of systematic exploration that has been done upon the Moose Mountain Range. If this is true of Moose Mountain Range, it is even more true of the other Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia iron ore districts. Mr. A. B. Willmott, in his excellent monograph on "The Iron Ores of Ontario," makes a striking and effective comparison. He refers thus to the work done in one small section on the United States side of the Lake Superior country and contrasts it with what has been attempted in Northern Ontario: "The amount spent on exploration on the Vermilion range alone, between Tower and Section 30, a distance of say thirty miles, probably surpasses all the money spent in actual exploration of the hundreds of miles of similar ranges in Northern Ontario." This fact is eloquent.

One of the conditions that hamper the development of Canadian iron deposits is the fact that owners usually stipulate for excessive royalties or grossly over-estimate the value and extent of their holdings. Another cause is the apparent unwillingness of Canadian consumers to grant reasonable terms to possible shippers. In other words, with one or two exceptions, there appears to be a decided diffidence on the part of Canadians in embark-