

reference to the property in the American technical papers looks rather like an attempt to interest further capital in the undertaking.

It is regrettable to learn that the Fairfield Syndicate, which owns and operates the well-known Dorothea Morton mine, now finds that the ore-body which has yielded to date between \$80,000 and \$90,000 in gold and other values, represents only a rich blanket deposit, the main lead having yet to be found. The mill and Cyanide plant have consequently been temporarily closed down. All interested in metal mining on the Coast will join in hoping that the further efforts of so business-like and bona fide a concern as that which is behind the Dorothea Morton, will prove completely successful.

It is clear that the Alaskan *modus vivendi* virtually concedes nothing to Canada unpossessed before, and the only present advantage it conveys is in certain conditions which prevent conflict of jurisdiction between the Customs officials of the Dominion and those of the United States. Sir Louis Davies, the British Ambassador at Washington, and Colonial Office authorities in London have jointly done their best in the case but without avail; as the United States at present refuses to accept a reference to arbitration; and the boundary dispute, vexatious though it is, cannot be regarded as sufficiently grave to amount to anything like a *casus belli* between two generally friendly nations. A tentative compromise proposal made by Sir Louis Davies suggests that—while other points in connection with the boundary line shall be arbitrated under condition that are very liberal for the United States—Canada is to receive one port, Pyramid Harbour, and thus gain access to the Yukon, via the Lynn Canal. The United States claims to Dyea and Skagway are simultaneously to be recognized by the Dominion and the Empire. This is probably as much as Canada can well hope to obtain under existing political circumstances, and the settlement of the dispute would, even on such terms, involve a considerable gain on the Dominion's present unsatisfactory position. But with the Pacific and Western States Senators and Congressmen resolutely opposing the slightest American concession, while also urging a refusal of arbitration, it seems very doubtful indeed, if even Sir Louis Davies' offer will at this juncture find acceptance at the hands of the rulers of the neighbouring Republic. They will more probably fear, with a Presidential election contest in early prospect, to alienate Western and Pacific States supporters in Congress, and at the same time supply the Democrats with an available campaign weapon. The trouble is that a cry of "not an inch of American ground shall be given up," is very popular with United States electors, who would in a host of cases fail to recognize that the suggested compromise rather involved a settlement of an international territorial dispute on terms very favourable to their country, than any transfer of American territory. It is extremely difficult to convince our neighbours of the Western and Pacific States that Dyea, Skagway, Pyramid Harbour and much other territory, which they claim to be Alaskan, are altogether debatable ground, to some of which Canada seems to be entitled under the old and badly-drawn boundary treaty between Great Britain and Russia. The United

States can, of course, claim no further Alaskan rights than those purchased from Russia, and in part delineated by the treaty in question.

According to the American Consul at Dawson City, there is now abundant evidence that only the very rich Klondike placers can be worked at a profit without machinery on account of the high price of labour and living. Hydraulic mining will soon have to be introduced in this country. The opportunity is now open for capitalists to buy claims to **operate with machinery**, which will yield rich returns for the money invested, but the poor man's chances, so far as this country is concerned, are gone. Recently some three thousand Yukon miners left Dawson for the much "boomed" Cape Nome gold fields, where their chances of coming to grief are infinitely greater.

The information obtainable regarding the Anaconda group of claims in the Atlin district, recently purchased by a London syndicate, with which Lord Ernest Hamilton is connected, is somewhat vague, but what there is of it, eminently interesting. The mineral showing (it is not in any sense a vein or lode) is, we learn from an official source, several hundred feet wide, and Mr. Bromly, the syndicate's engineer, after making very careful and systematic tests, has found fair values—in some spots the rock assays over \$20 in gold—in every direction where drillings have been made. This extraordinary deposit resembles in point of size the famous Treadwell mine, but on the surface of the Anaconda, where, no doubt, the gold has been concentrated by the action of the elements, the values are decidedly higher. The future profit-earning capabilities of this property, is, however, largely dependent on a fact, not yet ascertained, as to whether or not the rock, which is free-milling on the surface, will continue to have this characteristic as depth is attained. Meanwhile the prospects of Atlin as a quartz and hydraulic camp are by no means unpromising, some quite rich discoveries of both galent and copper-gold ores have **lately been made, and the** country is hardly any more inaccessible than was the Slocan ten years ago; if anything, indeed, it is more favourably situated in respect to transportation facilities. The great difficulty, of course, would be, however, the extreme cold in winter and the necessity of bringing in fuel from some considerable distance.

As regards placer mining in Atlin, the chief complaint of the miners is that the 100-foot claims are too small, and that on all the branch creeks there is an insufficiency of water. Of course, the second of these drawbacks cannot well be overcome, but the first, if the miners' contention is found to be reasonable, could be remedied in the future so far as vacant ground is concerned at any rate. It is asserted that it does not pay to work an Atlin claim of 100 feet only, when, as is generally the case, a man has to sink six feet to bed-rock, and several instances are cited where men have abandoned otherwise fairly promising ground solely on this account.

All mining operations in the Omineca district are now practically over for the season; but the result of the past summer's work has been, on the whole, gratifying. It is true no very remarkable "cleans-up" have