

British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Devoted to the Interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

SATURDAY NOV. 20, 1897.

Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining machinery, mining laws, or matters relating to the mineralogical development of Canada, are always welcome.

Manufacturers and dealers in appliances used in a gold mine are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.

Subscription. Two Dollars a year, payable in advance. Remittances should be made by Express, Postal Order or Bank Draft, payable to the "British Columbia Mining Critic."

Advertising rates quoted on application.

British Columbia Mining Critic Co.,
Publishers.

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PROMISING MINE COUNTRY.

The Hon. Col. Baker, speaking on Thursday evening at the Nests banquet in his official capacity as Minister of Mines, made two important pronouncements: First that aided by Dominion and Provincial subsidies, a bold and successful effort would be made early next spring to open up the coast and all Canadian route to the Yukon via the Skeena River and Teslin Lake by the building of a railway along the part of the route which lies between Telegraph Creek and Teslin Lake. This will be of immense gain to Vancouver, by making the Terminal City the best western point of departure for the Klondyke, and render access to the Klondyke at the same time available by an easy and comfortable route, of which the C. P. R. and other transport organizations of this coast will doubtless take full advantage.

This is good, although not unexpected news, but the Colonel had other welcome news to tell of a second great district which, unlike the Klondyke, lies all within British Columbia, namely, the Omineca country. He stated that in the great Omineca district, there have just been discovered very rich free gold leads traceable already

in preliminary examination, for a mile and a quarter. In British Columbia there is also, he said, a positive trough, extending from the Provincial boundary line for 1,100 miles through Wild Horse Creek and Cariboo, even to the Yukon, all easy for a railway and having about it a country highly mineralized. There is consequently good reason to hope for the opening up in a comparatively short time, of a second and probably more permanent Klondyke in and beyond the Omineca country of our own Province, which is happily accessible and much more agreeable as regards advantages of situation than the old region of the very far and frozen northland of the Yukon. Our Province is clearly only beginning, even now, to learn in small part the values of the precious metal wealth within her borders.

AN INTERESTING PRONOUNCEMENT.

The Rosland "Miner" is responsible for the statement that Mr. Bostock, M.P., is intently watching the operations of the C. P. R. in Kootenay and Yale, and determined to "oppose bitterly in Parliament any attempt that the big corporation may make to monopolize the transport business of Southern British Columbia." So far as the Boundary district is concerned, the "Miner" adds that Mr. Bostock favors the grant of a Dominion subsidy to a railway that will accommodate the mining country lying between Penticton and the Columbia River and always remain independent of the C. P. R. The authenticity of the "Miner's" report also the authenticity of the "Miner's" report of Mr. Bostock's attitude, means that he still, as during the last Dominion session, favors the claims of Mr. Heinze and his associates of the Columbia and Western Railroad, and continues opposed to the C. P. R., although his organ, the "Province," has lately grown somewhat more friendly to Canada's great transcontinental railway. It has long been an open secret that Mr. Bostock has no faith in the solidity of the Coast-Kootenay projectors, and that his choice of policy lies between supporting the C. P. R.'s extension movement in Southern B. C. and aiding parliamentarily that of the Columbia and Western people, in connection, doubtless, in their case, with some strong

American railroad organization. The "Miner" declares that Mr. Bostock still prefers the latter alternative. However, considerable as it is, and deservedly, Mr. Bostock's influence at Ottawa, we still continue to believe that with a marked division of opinion on railway policy still existing among the Liberal representatives of B. C. in parliament, the big influence at Ottawa of the C. P. R. will secure for that Company the subsidy it asks under, if it is to be hoped—the wish being with us rather to the thought—something approaching a sufficiency of safeguarding conditions as regards the general public interest. This is probably the maximum attainable at Ottawa from a vast preponderance of Eastern Canadian representatives, few of whom understand the position of British Columbia, either in railway or other matters. And after all, the C. P. R. is no mere paper organization, but "means business and does business" all the time.

QUEER MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS.

Mayor Scott, of Rosland, in his appears, very lenient to gamblers, and did his level best to prevent a successful police prosecution of a gang of them the other day, until he capitulated, on learning that a "crap" game was included in the gamblers' outfit. The Mayor it seems, draws his permissive line at gambling games with boards. Meanwhile the Mayor of Nelson has been establishing a licence system in that town for houses of ill-fame, which things show that two Mayors of West Kootenay towns have curious views of their own, as to the interpretation and administration of the common law of the land. Police Magistrate Jordan fully enforced the law on the Rosland gamblers; and inflicted them in all in no less a sum than \$389.50. "Great Scott," they doubtless exclaimed in bitter irony when they found how little the Mayor's effort had availed them.

BUSY MR. HEINZE.

The Trail Creek News states that Mr. August Heinze, Trail's noted miner and railroad magnate, is suing a number of local mine-owners for alleged trespass on his land. They are mostly raising counter-claims, and Mr. Heinze has now, it is said, a law-suit on hand. Evidently a friend of the lawyer is Herr August Heinze.