

CRIPPLE CREEK.

The gold-bearing area of Cripple Creek is practically limited to a tract of ground measuring about six miles north and south by four miles east and west, comprising a group of rolling hills on which the mines are located. Outside this golden circle the ground is staked in claims for miles in every direction, and it is on this ground that the worthless or bogus company is floated. It is a fact, and one that should be profitably heeded, that practically no shipping mine has been developed outside this circle. Inside it the ground is of course limited in extent, and for years past inflated and prohibited prices have prevailed, and done much to damage legitimate mining.

Among geologists and mining engineers the consensus of opinion is that the district, while permanent as a big gold-producer, is of volcanic origin and peculiarly erratic. In other words, certainty or continuity of veins and ore chutes cannot be assumed either laterally or with depth. The result is—and this will surprise a great many—that mining is more of a lottery in this district than elsewhere in Colorado, and that a mere novice in mining may, by pure chance, run across a rich vein, while an experienced mining man, after the most careful investigation, may utterly fail to find a pound of ore. It is also common for a vein to terminate abruptly, leaving no clue to the probable direction of its continuation.

Out of a dozen typical cases of men selected at random, who have made fortunes varying from £5,000 to £500,000 out of mining in Cripple Creek since 1872, two were painters, two farmers, two plumbers, one ticket-broker, one schoolmaster, two druggists, one grocer and one carpenter. There will undoubtedly be a number of new fortunes made in Cripple Creek within the next year or two from gold actually taken out of the ground; and during the same period a very large sum in the aggregate will doubtless be lost or dissipated in ill-conceived or poorly managed enterprises. Such is the famous Cripple Creek gold field, which interested enthusiasts have declared to be the richest and greatest gold field in the world. Locally it is known as a "geological gamble," a term not altogether inapt wherewith to describe its uncertainties.

A MINING DISPUTE.

The courts will be appealed to to decide the question of ownership of the minerals on certain lands on Texada Island, the property of Capt. John Irving and Mr. J. J. Palmer. The lands in which the mineral claims in question are situated are held under crown grants and were purchased from the provincial government many years ago, that of Mr.

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Among the claims in dispute may be mentioned the Volunteer, staked in D. McPhoe's name; the Copper Chief, the Gladys C, the Texada and the Ironside, held respectively in the name of Messrs. Blanchfield, W. A. Clarke, Robinson and Rev. Father Eummelin. The total number of claims staked is between thirty and forty; but the above-mentioned are the best known, and some of them have been proved of very great value. Legal talent has been retained on both sides and Capt. Irving and Mr. Palmer have joined their interests, and purpose to fight the matter to the very end. Already injunctions have been issued, so that for the present not a pound of ore can be dealt with by the restakers of the claims.

LICENSES TO SELL STOCK.

The following are two sections from the Companies Act of Ontario:

9. No extra-provincial mining, milling, reduction or development company having its office elsewhere than in this province shall, either directly or indirectly, sell or otherwise dispose of within this province any of its shares, stock, stock certificates, or other securities by whatsoever name known, unless and until it shall have received from the lieutenant-governor-in-council a license authorizing it to sell and dispose of its shares and other securities, and any person who, in contravention of this section, acts for an unlicensed company, on conviction thereof, be liable to a fine of \$20 per day for every day while he so acted, and, in case the fine be not paid, shall, in the discretion of the court, be imprisoned for a period not exceeding three months.

10. No license shall be issued to an extra-provincial mining, milling, reduction and development company having its head offices elsewhere than within this province until the company shall have satisfied the director of the bureau of mines that it has been duly incorporated and that it possesses the real estate.

the public, and for this purpose the director shall have the power to require of the company such sworn documentary and other evidence as he shall deem to be requisite in the premises, and upon a report that he is satisfied that the company is one which may be licensed under this section, and upon the recommendation of the provincial secretary, the lieutenant-governor-in-council may direct the issue of a license upon such terms and conditions as to him shall seem proper.

EULOGY ON THE PROSPECTOR.

As the snow disappears and the ground is getting into shape for the prospector, we hear many pretty things said of this pioneer on the mineral borders. The following from the Chautauquan, is true to life, and one of the best descriptions of his toils and successes, the riches made and squandered, that we have seen: "To the brave and rugged prospector, with his cheap outfit of mining tools, his empty stomach and hopeful heart, is due the rapid development of the west. At the tap of his pick the door of nature's treasury vaults open; but their wealth is not for him. The stock sharks, the speculator and the promoters rob him of his interest, and the snow is no sooner sinking from the slopes of the foothills than the poor fellow is wending his course into new territory. He appears in the rocky fastnesses of mountains, and with no companions but his pick and frying pan, is lost to memory. Suddenly comes the news of another discovery, and a city rises like a pillar of fame in the wilderness. 'Lucky Bill has struck it rich,' gambled away his pile, and pushed on. The bones of hundreds of the advance couriers of civilization blaze the path of progress in the west, or moulder in forgotten graves, while in their wake are teeming cities they have founded and the ceaseless murmur of the money-seeking multitude, whose fortunes they have builded." The steadfastness of his hope under many disappointments, his willingness to be fleeced for a little money, the zest of his short-lived dissipation, and the cheerfulness with which he returns to the rocky trail, are characteristic of many of the old-time prospectors.

"It seems like child's play," said a prominent Canadian, "for the government to discriminate against foreigners, who help to develop the resources of the country and prepare the rich harvest which the government itself will reap. This country is not like the United States. There all the land is taken up and the government has no need for more settlers. Here there are vast wildernesses to develop and every shaft sunk in the ground and every ton of ore taken out means added wealth to the country. If the Americans wish to develop this country