

# British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

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## NOTICES.

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Editor and Managing Director.

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## EDITORIAL.

### THE CHAMBER OF MINES BOARD.

The Mining Record, whilst speaking favorably of the Chamber and its object, and wishing the undertaking all success, regards as regrettable the fact that so large a majority of the executive committee reside in one locality. This was not, however, the fault of those who with great difficulty succeeded in organizing the Chamber. Ere even a provisional meeting was called of those favoring the project, Victoria was visited on behalf of the endeavor, and as many of those interested in mining as possible were invited to aid in the formation of the Chamber, amongst others interviewed being the members of the Provincial government and the editor of the Mining Record. All approved the purpose and promised to aid it, as many of them—including the editor of the Mining Record—have done. But when the organization meeting was called, few were present, either from Victoria or the up-country districts. Those at the meeting, however, felt that further delay was inadvisable, and in due course an executive committee was elected by the members from those then qualified. This committee includes four outside representatives. It is now understood that another general meeting of the Chamber will be held next month, in accordance with the articles of association, when the advisability of appointing as a vice-president of the ex-

ecutive committee a leading representative of each Provincial mining district, will be taken into consideration. It is hoped and expected to make the Chamber and its board each as broadly representative as is well possible of British Columbia mining in general.

### THE STICKINE RAILROAD DEAL.

It is satisfactory to learn that one or both of two causes will probably produce large modifications in the general public interest of the provisional agreement, made by the Hon. Mr. Sifton with Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie. The first of these is the obstructive policy of the United States government, which by impeding the full and free use of the Stickine river by Canadian vessels should compel the Dominion government to extend the proposed railroad to a point south on the coast of Northern British Columbia. The second probable incentive to a modification of the agreement is the apparent determination of the senate to refuse to ratify the proposed Mann-Mackenzie agreement, unless very considerably modified and shorn of some of its inordinate concessions to the favored contractors. There is consequently afforded to the Laurier government an excellent opportunity for making a far better bargain than that resulting from Mr. Sifton's give-away negotiations. The Dominion Premier may well make the now necessary further extension of the Yukon railroad an all-sufficient plea for revision of the provisional contract. Mr. Sifton may, of course, threaten to resign, but he is unlikely to give up readily the snuggest official berth he has ever filled. And even were he to resign, Canada need not go into more than half-mourning. There are other statesmen left who can at least deal as well as the Hon. Mr. Sifton with canny railroad contractors.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. R. D. Kinmond, late of Vancouver, and now of Skagway, recently wrote a letter to the Vancouver World, categorically stating that a number of deaths had there occurred from spinal meningitis within twenty-four hours of his writing. Mr. Kin-