

us, the place "reeks with litigation," and he describes champerty lawyers and blackmailers forever "trying to pierce the armor of some syndicate or English-floated company."

But let no one imagine from this last quotation that this correspondent of the Economist is an apologist for English measures or men in that district. Speaking of the average owner of a claim at Klondyke, he declares him "not a greatly-to-be-envied person. It is just the same," he adds, "with the English companies. They were floated for hundreds of thousands of pounds to work ground that sometimes did not produce that amount of dollars. . . I inspected the claims of the English companies, which have nearly all been failures," the main reason being that they paid more for the ground than will ever be taken out of it. And so on for a space which would take up two of our pages, winding up with: "So much for Klondyke. The outside alluvial fields in the Yukon are not yet of enough importance to write about separately."

Still, we may quote or condense some of his remarks about certain of the Klondyke companies. "The Klondyke Consols, with a capital of £250,000, is the best of the English mines," but—there are several buts, and the conclusion is that "at par the shares are over-valued."

The Klondyke Bonanza owned a good claim (No. 5 below discovery on Hunker Creek). This is now practically worked out. . . The work seems to have been well done, and the lack of profit on it is a good example of the hopelessness of making a company pay here.

"McDonald's Bonanza, with a capital of £433,465—say \$2,165,000—is another claim that is now worked out. This has been a very rich claim but was capitalized out of all proportion to its value. . ."

"The Klondyke Government Concession is a big area of gravel, two miles long, I believe, . . . as usual, the company worked itself to a standstill, and is now shut down, pending reconstruction. This ground was worked in the costly winter style, by sinking small shafts into the frozen gravel. . . Of course it could not pay under that system. . . A reconstruction, if it is to pay, must reduce the new capital to not more than £30,000 (instead of 55,000 preference shares and 245,000 ordinary water shares), of which half must be cash."

"The Yukon Corporation is the worst-handled property I saw. . . It has been gouged out by winter work, and the surface tells a sad story of all-round mismanagement."

"The Dome Gold Mine is in the throes of reconstruction. I know of three claims on different creeks belonging to the company, but all of these are no good."

GRAIN REFORMS.

Toronto Board of Trade met on Monday last and endorsed the resolutions passed recently by the grain section. The first resolution, that the Dominion government be asked to withdraw its instructions requiring the use of a bushel measure in grain testing, was carried with a slight amendment, the elimination of a clause which stated that no bushel measures of a certified capacity were made in Canada. It was pointed out that the compulsory use of a bushel measure would entail a loss amounting to thousands of dollars to the

shippers in the course of a year, and that its use would be an injustice to the farmers and country dealers.

Another resolution was passed to the effect that the government be petitioned to at once appoint sworn official weighers at all public elevators, but especially at the terminal elevators at Toronto, Montreal, Portland and St. John, the officials to be paid by the Government and to be entirely independent of the companies owning and operating the elevators; also that arrangements be made by which the official weighers should inspect all cars before unloading to ascertain on behalf of the shippers if any leakage has occurred and to report the same if discovered.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

STRIKES, POLITICS AND SOME SPICY INCIDENTS.—A CANADIAN MANUFACTURER WHO DID NOT KNOW HIS GEOGRAPHY.

Since the introduction of the tariff the Federal House of Representatives has been debating a vote of want of confidence, based on the tariff, the vote being introduced by the Free Trade leader of the Opposition. The debate closed on Friday, when the motion was beaten by a vote of 25 to 39. This is a little larger majority for the Government than the Opposition expected, and ensures the adoption of the protection principle, but the Government has promised sundry amendments. It is not likely that the tariff will be finally passed until Christmas. In the meantime the tariff as introduced will be levied. The uncertainty surrounding it is a drag on business.

Coming out of the Canadian office I met two agents. "Some more trouble," I suggested. "Oh, only the old one," said the first. "I ordered goods months ago with instructions that they must reach here in August. The Canadian firm acknowledged the order, and said the goods would be sure in August. It is now November, goods not here yet, and I don't know that they have been shipped." The other's grievance was only a disputed agency. This may be settled without trouble, but there are cases which cannot. For instance, here is one; A Canadian manufacturer gave the agency for New Zealand for a machine which he made to a New Zealand firm, which firm we will denominate B. The trade was so successful that B applied for the agency for Australia, was promised it, and was told that a contract would immediately follow. The contract did not come, but B shortly learned that the agency had been given to C, a rival in business. C got to work in Sydney, but scarcely had he begun when D, a Canadian straight from Canada with a large stock of goods and a contract for the agency for New South Wales, appeared on the scene. B, C and D were all mad. C entered an action against that manufacturer for breach of contract. D went back to Canada and did likewise. The manufacturer at last advices had already incurred heavy costs, and the cases were still unsettled. His defence, it is alleged, is that he did not know that New South Wales was a part of Australia. I hear that geography is taught in Canada.

If any Canadian thinks of coming here to manufacture goods under the new tariff he had better look into the labor question a little first. Only two strikes on in Sydney just now. One, that of the tailoresses, has ground for it, as portions of these women have been very poorly paid. Others have been paid fairly, but all the shops did not accept the log the ladies laid down immediately without time or consideration, and so their workers struck. The glass workers are also out. It was claimed by their organizers that they could only earn \$12 per week, which is not enough to keep a family here. Their employers, however, published the wages in detail, having paid these two men wages for the last six months which shows forty-three cents per hour. If the men did not work full time it was not the fault of the factory. Sundry other strikes are brewing, and the new Arbitration Court, of this State [New South Wales] will speedily have its hands full.

Mr. McKay, who left Toronto for New Zealand about four years ago, is on his way back. With a partner he has