

"The interview states, among other things, that the rich gold strikes at Poplar Creek have been exaggerated; that the Provincial Mineralogist at the time of his recent hurried visit made a very careful survey of the scene of said strikes, and that certain parties are booming properties on the strength of the phenomenal discoveries.

"Two groups—the Lucky Jack and the Swede group—are mentioned in the interview. These two properties are owned by the Great Northern Mines, Ltd., of which I am the promoter.

"I take emphatic exception to the interview, if the Provincial Mineralogist has been correctly reported, on the following grounds:

"First, because Mr. Robertson being in the employ of the Government and sent by that Government to examine Poplar Creek, had no right, to give out in advance of his official report, any information regarding the camp. Information too that he must have known was grossly misleading and capable of doing irretrievable injury to that section of the Lardeau.

"Secondly, because Mr. Robertson, as stated in the interview, did not 'make a careful survey of the strikes,' as he alleges, but on the contrary visited only a few claims, and is therefore in no position to give an intelligent opinion of the section he was sent to report upon.

"Thirdly, that he can point to no mining engineer, prospector, or other person versed in the veriest rudiments of mining, who having visited the scene of the strikes who has not freely stated that their phenomenally rich surface showings were not exaggerated in any way.

"And fourthly, that by reason of the said strikes Poplar and other creeks were being boomed unworthily to attract capital for legitimate mining investment.

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"Mr. Robertson is reported as saying: 'The vast extent intersected by strong, well-marked quartz veins * * * impressed him as most favourable to the making of a thriving camp.' and further, 'Every foot of ground in the vicinity has been staked and nothing remains for the new-comer.' This from the Provincial Mineralogist, who states he 'made a very careful survey.' What absolute ignorance of the country. Here we have a known mineralized belt 100 miles in length by three to six miles in width, only one-third of which I venture to state has been traversed by those who delve into the hills for the riches old mother earth has so carefully hidden away. It is my opinion, and I speak from an experience of thirteen years as a practical prospector, one of the richest diversified mineral belts in the whole Province.

"The riches and wealth of Poplar, Tenderfoot and other creeks, in fact the numerous camps of the entire Lardeau district have not been overestimated. I challenge Mr. Robertson, in his official report, and not in personal interviews to the press, to tell the truth, and the whole truth of what he saw in the brief period he spent at the scene of the strikes, and I venture to predict that he will say that the surface showings of

gold quartz ore ranked with anything of a similar character yet found in the entire Province."

Now, we shall not follow Mr. Pool through his several misquotations of what the *Times* published as Mr. Robertson's impressions, for these are patent to any careful reader. But since Mr. Pool has challenged the Provincial Mineralogist "to tell the truth and the whole truth of what he saw," thereby questioning the veracity of that official, we take this opportunity, the first open to us, of stating our earnest conviction that such a reflection is entirely unwarranted. We do not always agree with the attitude of the Provincial Mineralogist in dealing with mining camps more or less in the prospect stage, but in this instance we think that his "impressions"—assuming them to be his—as published in the *Times*, were fully as favourable as the then condition of Poplar Creek camp justified any responsible man in giving. If the conclusions of the Provincial Mineralogist, in his official capacity, are to have weight, they must be well-founded, which they certainly can not be if he is to take his cue from the standpoint of self-interested company promoters, rather than from that of a plain statement of the position as he finds it.

A CATCH-PENNY POLICY.

Mr. W. B. Pool has in print taken "emphatic exception" to certain information regarding Poplar Creek camp the Provincial Mineralogist is alleged to have given out and which, according to Mr. Pool, "he must have known was grossly misleading." Now the Trout Lake *Topic* newspaper, published right in the heart of the Lardeau district, which has Mr. Pool's particular attention, last month issued as a supplement a six-column sheet, the whole of one side and about one fourth of the other side of which was taken up by a prospectus of a company in the promotion of which Mr. Pool has acknowledged he is interested, and to which he has referred as "my company." The remaining three-fourths of the second page of this sheet were filled with selections (containing sensational and picturesque descriptions, by the way, of gold discoveries on some of the very mining claims Mr. Pool has during the past three months been persistently booming) from other newspapers, as follows: Vancouver *Daily Ledger* of August 15, Rossland *Miner* of September 13, Vancouver correspondence in Victoria *Colonist* of September 15, Winnipeg *Tribune* (no date), and Vancouver *Province* of September 15. From this aggregation of sensationalism we give herewith half a dozen quotations: "The last I saw of Pool, the man who bought the Lucky Jack for \$200,000, money made right in the district * * * he was heading for the Canadian Territories with his grip full of nuggets to sell stock." "According to Pool, one of the owners, he considers that when he first looked at the mine, sizing up the proposition with a view to purchase, that there was certainly a million dollars staring him in the face. I think that the chances are there are three or four million dollars right above ground to stoep." "We shall have a mill