

# EDITORIAL

## THE SAFEGUARDING OF INVESTORS IN MINES

Mr. Alexander Gray in his comments in this issue, which we welcome, views the protection of the investor and the simultaneous encouragement of the prospector from a point of wide experience in mining matters, and he touches a vital point in suggesting that reputable newspapers should censor the mining flotation literature which now forms so large a part of the advertising columns of Canadian dailies. Some of the newspaper propaganda is so subtle that it would deceive the very elect. Recently we pointed out the apparent character of the investment afforded by the stock offering of the Little Gem Mining Company of Anchorage, Alaska, which had appeared in the Montreal "Star," and the very frank manner in which those who offered this stock admitted its speculative character. The writer was amused, when attending the Annual Meeting in Toronto, to note that the advertisement of this Company was appearing in the Toronto "Globe," but, either from an astute psychological insight into the Torontonion mind, or perhaps to conform to the code of morals professed by the "Globe" the suggestions to "ante up" and take a chance on winning a "big pot" were deleted. Instead, a statement was made as to the amount of stock that had been sold in Montreal. Now that is not bad, because no matter how Toronto may regard Montreal's moral character, it has a most wholesome respect for the business acumen of its civic rival.

As one example of the other little gems that stud our newspapers, we have had brought to our attention a despatch from the "correspondent in the mining field" of the Montreal "Standard" written from Dane, Ont., which refers to the Argonaut Mine. This gentleman, having summoned up sufficient courage to explore the vasty deeps of a gold mine found himself on the 200 ft. level, where, he writes, "one had great difficulty in getting about to see anything owing to the number of men at work. We are plaintively informed also that "one is allowed to understand that interruptions are not appreciated." We wonder what they did to the poor man. Perhaps they ran a mine car into him? It is very evident that our friend was out of his element. Yet, notwithstanding his obvious unfamiliarity with underground conditions, he proceeds to make this oracular statement, to wit, "It is estimated that the development work now in progress and, to be continued for the next few months will add

five million dollars to the known ore reserves in the mine." The gentleman can apparently see as far into the ground as the next man, and he finishes his letter by stating: "It is the general opinion up here that the Argonaut is fast developing into the richest gold mine in the country." What we like about these gentry is their lack of ambiguity.

It is quite possible that the Argonaut may be a rich mine, but this kind of thing is not playing the game squarely.

Those who really know mines are not deceived by the fake technical gibberish that disfigures so many of the financial pages of our most reputable newspapers, but those who do not know mines are greedy and credulous readers of it all. The Editor has on his desk a letter from such an investor, who says that through one of his real friends his attention was called to Canada. He says, truly enough, "I have been unfortunate in my investments so far. It was never any fault of mine, but invariably the dishonesty of the promoter."

The problem of protecting the "investor" against fraudulent mine flotations is, as Mr. Gray says, somewhat of an abstract science, but there is nothing abstract about the cash-down payments that our newspapers ask before they will print these dubious advertisements, nor is it making an unfair statement to declare that in allowing such advertisements to appear in their columns, our newspapers are inflicting upon their readers a deliberate dis-service, and are not playing cricket.

## FLIN FLON DEPOSIT WILL BE DEVELOPED THIS YEAR.

It is announced that arrangements have been completed between the owners of the Flin Flon property and men associated with W. B. Thompson of New York that will insure vigorous development of the property this year. It is understood that the plant at the Mandy mine has been purchased for the work at Flin Flon mine and will be immediately moved. It is reported from The Pas that a number of men have already been engaged for the work of transporting and installing the machinery and putting the camp in shape for action.

It is common knowledge that the Flin Flon deposit is a very big one. The work that has been done has given information which makes it appear probable