

prove to be at the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.

"5. It is moreover agreed that no establishment shall be formed by either of the two parties within the limits assigned by the two preceding articles to the possessions of the other; consequently, British subjects shall not form any establishment either upon the coast, or upon the border of the continent comprised within the limits of the Russian possessions, as designated in the two preceding articles; and, in like manner, no establishment shall be formed by Russian subjects beyond the said limits.

"6. It is understood that the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, from whatever quarter they may arrive, whether from the ocean, or from the interior of the continent, shall forever enjoy the right of navigating freely, and without any hindrance whatever, all the rivers and streams, which, in their course towards the Pacific Ocean, may cross the line of demarcation upon the line of coast described in Article III. of the present convention."

American Enterprise and Canada.

THERE is no questioning the fact that the development of the mining industry of British Columbia has been largely due to American enterprise. The North-Western States of the Union produce a sturdy race of prospectors, to the manner born; with these men the credit rests of discovering the rich mineral fields of the province, and with the energetic speculators and mine operators of the same country the no less distinction of introducing capital and pioneering the work of developing the mines of our now flourishing camps. This is but a just meed of acknowledgement for service rendered, but those who insist so strongly on the immensity of the debt British Columbia owes to Americans—and we here refer more particularly to a certain and flatulent section of the American press—should also bear in mind, 1st, that our friends from the Great Republic did not pay our Kootenay climate the compliment of exploring its hills for their health's sake, and, 2nd, a great many, possibly, we may perhaps say the majority of the pioneer prospectors and investors from the States of Washington and Oregon have now the best possible reason for remembering thankfully the day when they first "struck out" for, and successfully "struck it" in British Columbia. Hence, we may very safely assume that the debt if it heretofore existed may certainly by this time be wiped off the slate. Meanwhile, so far as the quartz mining industry of this province is concerned, despite the, in our opinion, somewhat foolish because untimely cry of "Canada for the Canadians," the American prospector and the American capitalist should be given every encouragement to assist in the development of our great potential mineral resources. Any other course would at the present juncture be not only impolitic but decidedly prejudicial to our best interests. At the same time American journals must clearly understand that the Canadian Government regards the matter from a purely business standpoint in which the question of gratitude plays no part

whatever. It suits our book that Americans should open up our mines until the time arrives when Canada can find her own capital, and so long as Americans find it profitable to invest money in British Columbia they will continue to do so.

In placer mining, however, the case, we think, is very different, and we are entirely in accord with the sentiment that aliens should be excluded from the rich diggings of (for instance) the Yukon. In contradistinction to quartz mining, no capital, or very little, is required to open up placer ground, and the country is in proportion to the amount of gold taken from the gravel of its streams by foreigners thus much the poorer, because they contribute nothing in return for what they take away. Quartz mining carried on upon any sort of large scale means the employment of a number of men, not only in actual mining operations, but in the subsidiary industries which of necessity spring up in an established camp. While, therefore, it is politic that no action should be taken likely to be detrimental to the development of the quartz mining industry in British Columbia, the unfriendly attitude that the United States has lately assumed towards Canada, which even if we refused to accept the tone of the press in that country as voicing public sentiment there, is plentifully evidenced in recent hostile legislative measures, has caused a great feeling of resentment on this side of the International Boundary, and there are many Canadians who would counsel the adoption of retaliatory measures in the direction of preventing Americans from staking placer ground on the Klondyke, on the principle that a justifiable precedent has been afforded by section 2319 of the United States Revised Statutes which reads as follows:

"All valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States, both surveyed and unsurveyed, are hereby declared to be free and open to exploration and purchase, and to lands in which they are found to occupation and purchase by *citizens* of the United States and those who have declared their intention to become such."

Take an example of how this affects the Canadian prospector: Eight or ten years ago valuable deposits of mineral were discovered in the district now known as the Boundary Creek country. Following the first discoveries prospectors, most of whom were American citizens attracted by the favourable reports of the new camp, flocked in and in the last few years the whole country has been practically staked out, the consequence being that prospectors or rather English and Canadian prospectors, now are obliged to seek new fields forty and fifty miles away from where the first discoveries were made and where since flourishing settlements have sprung up, while Americans, who own perhaps the promising claims in the old camp may explore and acquire property in the rich camps of the Washington Colville Reservation thrown open a year or so ago to prospectors.

A Rich Strike on the Island.

TO THE EDITOR:—I send you by Mr. Kincade a sample of peacock ore. The claim this piece was taken from is situated on Sidney Inlet in the Clayoquot district. We (my partner, Mr. Kincade, and myself) are the pioneer prospectors of this par-