

MINING PROSPECTUSES.

A fair competency awaits an ingenious man of letters, fairly well versed in mining matters, joint stock companies and mining associations. He must, however, be discreet. We are in possession of three mining and development company circulars which have been very freely distributed among our thoroughfares and we unhesitatingly denounce them as illogical, fallacious and deliberately false. Notwithstanding the attempted proofs by the use and jugglery of figures, even some who are not among the verdant will be "taken in" by them. Hence the opportunity for the Literary Mining Bureau. It will surely turn out better work, and do the schemers more justice. One of the productions is really creditable—if the investment is profitable, the sponsors can readily say "we told you so." If on the other hand, the gudgeon is fleeced, and feels aggrieved, calls upon the manipulator *en chef* and demands an explanation, the interrogated one can respond with "We told you so." Clever—yes, clever; but this sort of cleverness will eventually redound to our discredit and reputability, and prove financially disastrous. We propose at an early date to present our readers with an analysis of some of these baits for the uninitiated, and in return will open our columns to the exposed should they deem themselves wrongfully handled. You will get fair treatment, gentlemen.

SIMPLE TESTS OF ORE.

The following simple tests will show whether an ore carries any precious metals. Afterwards samples of the rock should be assayed to ascertain the amount of value per ton: Gold—Powder; toast if sulphurets are present; grind very fine and wash in pan or spoon; examine with lens; yellow particles not soluble in nitric acid. The color of pure gold is bright yellow tinged with red. Gold may be distinguished from all other metals or alloys by the following simple traits: It is yellow, malleable, not acted upon by nitric acid. Silver—Pure silver is the brightest of metals, of a beautiful white color and rich lustre. Chloride of silver—If suspected in a pulp harshly rub a bright and wet copper cartridge thereon. If a chloride or chloride-bromide of silver it will whiten the copper. Graphite will thus whiten copper or gold, but can be rubbed off. Copper—After roasting the pulp, intimately mix and well knead with a like quantity of salt and candle grease, or any other fat, and cast into the fire, when the characteristic colors—first blue, then green—will appear. This test is better made at night. Galena—Black zinc blend, is often mistaken for galena. The two may be distinguished by the infallible sign, the

HEWITT'S VIEWS.

Ex-Alderman Hewitt writing from Rosslund to a brother in New Denver, B. C. says:

"I have been very well all winter; it surprises me. I must be wiry, as the great climatic change has not affected me like it has a great many more this winter. Rheumatism has been a prevalent and some big strong fellows have been pulled to pieces with it. I have now lived nearly 4000 feet up in the air for over six months, and it appears to have agreed with me. Things are about the same as when I wrote you last. We are getting through the winter and expect a lively spring. The snow is now six to eight feet deep on the mountains. It is impossible to prospect, so the town is full of men who pioneer the development of the mining industry in this country, all waiting a chance to explore and discover new wealth. They are rough, but nature's noblemen. Their hardships bring ease to others, and very seldom to themselves, as they are the prey of speculators and wealth. I suppose this must be so, as they know nothing but to rough it, and give up what they earn for very little money. You see some very curious characters in a mining camp. If one were a novelist he would be at no loss for material, no fiction, but reality. You see from the hobo, the rubber-neck curber, the fakir, the agents of English millionaires, the American mine owners and experts.

You say that many enquire of you about the prospects of work. Well, you may readily see that a mining camp does not provide the same diversity of work as commercial centres do. The work here on which everything else depends is mining, and as development increases practical miners will always be in demand. Carpentering is the next best trade, as people must have houses. Then the store business is in need of clerks. Good engineers will be wanted, and some machinists, as the different plants are put in. Outside of these trades you could not expect much. We have a full supply of professional men—lawyers, doctors, etc. You see from the above what class should stay away if they have nothing to depend upon but their labor. We have no manufactures here, so you see by the development of this wonderful country Ontario and the east will benefit their manufactures and make work for her men, and not bring an agricultural country Manitoba and N. W. T. will benefit by this market with their supplying products. You see then what interest the rest of Canada should take in the rapid development of the wonderful resources of British Columbia which I believe, if only handled aright, and taken hold of and encouraged by our governments, will make Canada second to none in natural wealth in the world. Our mining regions are the vast-

clash with other labor in our country, but on the other hand require the work of their hands for their support while they were producing the wealth from nature's treasury to pay them. Let our Government then see to it, while the world is crying for gold, that they do everything wisely to get our machinery in order, so that we can profit by taking advantage of that cry, and making the mining industry the basis of Canadian enterprise; then you will see our eastern manufactories hum and our unemployed engaged. The poor farmer would be called upon to feed us and their mortgages would disappear. This is the vision I see if the people will only have faith and our Government protect our interests by seeing that transportation is done from one end of the country to the other at reasonable rates. We don't want poor railways, but we do want them under such control as not to take all the profits from the producers at either end, and for this reason I hope the Government won't neglect the opportunity they have of insisting on fair play. We must have it, or you will hear something drop: because this western country is fast filling up with determined men who know a thing or two. The emigration is setting in this way and in a short time will surprise the world. Send us lots of money from Ontario. You will reap direct and indirect benefits beyond expectation by loyally assisting us in every way. Canada is coming to the front. It is the turning point. She has given her sons away long enough. Now they are returning. I have met hardy Canadian boys here who have been away for years, and they say they are glad to return; and besides them thousands of Americans are coming this way. Those people are all consumers, and truly it can be said that the United States will return as many to Canada as Canada gave her. I hope that they will be as good.

PROTECTION FOR MINERS.

In the British Columbia act for the safety and protection of persons employed in or about mines:

It is prohibited to pay miners wages in a place where whisky is sold, and mine owners must for statistical purposes send in returns to the bureau of mines each year. Stringent regulations are made to prevent accidents and to inquire into any that do happen. Provisions, too, are made for proper ventilation and to prevent explosives being kept at the mine, and to prohibit using iron tamping rods. Where the mines have a shaft 300 feet, and miners are lowered and hoisted, there must be a proper cage and guides. If a mine owner allows his men to be hoisted or lowered he must bear all the responsibility of accidents in connection therewith. There must be proper timbering and ladders, and penal clauses are inserted for infraction of regulations.