

ping Corporation," behind which is prominently displayed the name of "Frank Richards, of Atlin City and Vancouver, B.C." Mr. Richards has an agent in Leith, Scotland, in one Edward G. Buchanan, who circulates the "gull-trap" prospectus of the company widely. In that prospectus the company asks the co-operation of British investors in "taking out some of the millions of gold dust and nuggets which are in British Columbia," and adds the extraordinary and outrageously false assurance that "if you co-operate with this company you may make a quarter of a million in less than one year." The "quarter of a million," be it noted, refers to British currency, the prospectus being English and means pounds, not dollars! Mr. Richards is then described as a most expert financier, capable of carrying out gigantic undertakings, and as one who has "solved the socialistic problem, apart from the usual revolutionary ethics." It is amusingly added that "in the goldfields socialism is crowded out by true socialists." Among many other misleading assertions of the prospectus that are, however, quite other than comic, it is stated that the members of a successful party organized by Mr. Richards were landed last year in Dawson City on August 22nd, and that the steamship "Manauense" brought down under the direct management of Frank Richards over three millions of gold dust and drafts, arriving in Victoria, B.C., on August 8, 1898. Of course the members of the expedition could not have arrived in Dawson on August 22nd and returned to Victoria—a month's journey distant by the then available water communication before the same date in the same month; but as a matter of fact the "Manauense" was too large to get to Dawson at all, the Yukon being a great but very shallow waterway; and the vessel reached Victoria from St. Michael's, on the Yukon, on August 3rd, not on the 8th. As for the \$3,000,000 said to have been brought down by the ship, this assertion was made by the usual boom methods to the Provincial press on the authority of Mr. Richards himself, who was the purser of the "Manauense." There is every reason to believe that there was not a third of the alleged \$3,000,000 aboard, while so far from the gold being, as inferentially suggested in the prospectus, the property of a "Manauense" party under the tutelage of Mr. Richards, whatever came down by that vessel belonged to a miscellaneous crowd of Yukon miners, prospectors, traders and gamblers, mostly Americans, hardly one of whom probably knew Richards from Adam, when he stepped aboard the vessel. Indeed, Mr. Richards himself gave to the Victoria correspondent of the Vancouver *News-Advertiser*, among other Provincial journalists, the following statements as to the alleged gold-winners aboard, crediting F. Neaves, of Victoria, with \$800,000; Michael Traynor, of Victoria, with \$30,000; H. Doser, of Seattle, with \$117,000; Louis Paulus, of Seattle, with \$400,000; T. Rogers, of Seattle, with \$650,000, etc.—sums afterwards learnt to be vastly exaggerated. Clearly none of these men were of a body chiefly English, suggested as having been brought into and out of the Yukon under the direct management of Mr. Richards. And even as regards the "Manauense's" southern voyage, it has to be noted that Mr. Richards only acted in the subordinate capacity of purser.

However, the false suggestions and inferences to which we have alluded, are all meant by the prospectus to prelude a suggestion that small investors

in Great Britain should be fools enough to pay to Mr. Richard's agent, Buchanan, £30, one-third of the amount to be paid through the Merchants' Bank of Halifax in Atlin, to Mr. Richards or his order, on production of the title of the claim or claims purchased in the name of the subscriber. Here again is clearly fraudulent deception, it being absolutely impossible to secure and register an Atlin gold claim for £10, for, as everybody knows, payment of so small a sum for a claim alone, without allowing for the securing of a miner's license and registration would mean at the best vacant ground, miles away from nowhere, with ten thousand chances to one against the probability that an ounce of gold could be obtained from it. There is further fallacious twaddle in this precious prospectus about gold adhering to the grass roots in Atlin, and a statement is added, on the alleged authority of the General Traffic Manager of the White Pass and Yukon Railway, that the gold output could not fail to be between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000 this season. As it happens, in a sensational despatch sent to England early this year, the Manager of the White Pass Railway was credited with a statement that \$40,000,000 of gold would this year be got from the northern goldfields, but he distinctly referred, when making that optimistic prophesy to the Yukon, and not to Atlin at all.

In respect to the "Manauense" it may be added that Captain Edwards and the others concerned in chartering that vessel induced a small number of Englishmen to come by that vessel via Vancouver on agreement to deliver them at Dawson for £160 by means of a long and expensive voyage from England. The contracts were, however, broken, as of course it was impossible for the proprietors of the vessel to carry out the agreement for the sum named, and expensive litigation consequently resulted. This and other troubles long tied up the "Manauense" at Vancouver. Meanwhile, Mr. Richards did his level best, but failed, though he made long speeches to influential men and organizations, and wrote windy letters to the press, in an endeavour to float a Northern steamship company with headquarters in Vancouver. Indeed, a small volume might be written regarding this gentleman's exploits in British Columbia, but further comment is needless. The utter untrustworthiness of his concern and the outrageous falsifications of the prospectus in relation to it, showing clearly enough, that an endeavour has been made by the ex-purser of the "Manauense" and his associates to float one of the worst bubble mining concerns on record, with a view to trap the gullible small investor in the United Kingdom. Fortunately the *London Critic* has been active in exposing Mr. Richards' methods, and indeed to it we are indebted for much of the information which we have given concerning this concern and its manager in Scotland. These, however, we have supplemented by the addition of a few (among many) facts available in British Columbia in further discredit of one of the most disgraceful attempted impostures which we have ever encountered in connection with mining and trading in Western Canada.

The appointment of Mr. Carlyle to the Superintendency of the Rio Tinto may be his gain, but it is undoubtedly British Columbia's and Rossland's loss. He carries with him the best wishes of everyone who has ever casually or otherwise come in contact with him. Mr. Carlyle is a very suave and tactful man,