

the interests of humanity.

The Victoria Times is, however, in one point mistaken. It is by no means the only issue in the Province that has striven to tell the truth about the Yukon, and done its best to "warn off" the unfit. Several British Columbia papers have throughout done this, the MINING CRITIC being not the least prominent in this respect, as a perusal of our columns, week by week, will plainly show. We have throughout maintained what we still believe, that the permanent possibilities of the frozen Yukon do not begin to compare with those of our own more happily situated Province. The world will learn this soon, probably even before the leaves fall in autumn.

THE ADVANTAGES OF A CHAMBER OF MINES.

[Communicated.]

As there are still many inquiries made, regarding the *raison d'être* of a Chamber of Mines, it may be as well briefly to state a few of the advantages resulting from such an institution. A Chamber of Mines issues detailed reports as to the output and operations of mines within the country it concerns, which carry almost the weight of government statements. Thus, the reports of the Westralian Chamber of Mines are published extensively and regularly in the London (Eng.) mining press. The South African Chamber of Mines, the strongest Chamber of the kind in the world, similarly publishes, in England and elsewhere, information as to the South African mines. The British Columbia Chamber will adopt a like course, and should carry as much weight in speaking of the mines of British Columbia, as other Chambers carry in speaking of the mines of their respective countries.

Experience has shown that a Chamber of Mines can get, as a rule, later information than can a government over a wide stretch of country at a moderate cost, defrayed from funds supplied by voluntary subscriptions, which a government cannot secure. Governments have for these and other reasons countenanced and encouraged mining chambers in [the different mining countries which show a spirit of progress, and which are under more or less constitutional forms of

rule. In short, to such an extent does a Mining Chamber save expense and labor to a government that it may be regarded as in some sort a servant of the government, with certain well defined work delegated to it on behalf of the authorities and public. There is also another aspect of the matter, namely, that if the government did the work of a Mining Chamber, the whole public would probably have to contribute more or less towards the expenses of the work, whereas such portion of the public as is financially interested in mining, alone defrays the expenses of a Chamber's work.

The character and weight of the British Columbia Chamber will at once be understood, when it is mentioned that among the earliest members are the Minister of Mines, the Hon. Col. Baker, M. P. P., Mr. Barclay Bonthrone of the British Columbia Agency, Mr. Pellew Harvey, F. C. S. etc., Dr. Selwyn, and others of quite exceptional mining prominence. Such names would of themselves form a guarantee of good management, energy and efficiency, in giving due publicity to the merits of British Columbia as a mining country.

It is to the several Chambers of Mines that the English press invariably applies for authentic information on mining matters; and almost as invariably is it to the local Chamber of Mines that Australian and South African mining men refer, when coming to another mining country for the purpose of investing.

It is thus to the advantage of the Province that we should have an efficient Mining Chamber, to the advantage of every bona fide mine and mining company to have its representative in the Chamber, and to the advantage of every shareholder in a Provincial mine to secure from the Chamber, as issued, the collective reports and general mining information of the Province.

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