

Now that so much more attention is being directed to the gold-dredging possibilities of the Fraser and other rivers, the news that alluvial gold mining machinery not manufactured in Canada—but there's the rub—may be imported free of duty is very welcome. We have already heard of a number of new enterprises that are to be undertaken this season, and now that conditions are better understood the proportion of failures should not be great.

An active season is anticipated this year in the Big Bend, one of the most promising of the outlying districts. Placer mining is being vigorously prosecuted on Smith, Camp, McCullough and French Creeks, and large consignments of machinery suitable for deep level mining have already been sent in. Lode mining is being extensively carried on at Carnes Creek, Standard



Mr. L. W. Shatford, of Fairview, a member of the Executive Committee P. M. A., representing Commercial interests.

Basin, Downie Creek, Laforme Creek and on Keystone Mountain. Excellent reports have also been received of the development of the mica properties in this region.

Hardly a day passes without the arrival at the office of the MINING RECORD of a request or requests for specimen copies of the periodical. Some of these are worded in a more or less picturesque way, but here is one from Richmond, Kentucky, entirely characteristic:

"Richmond Ky.

"Our commissioner said this morning that British Columbia was the greatest country in North America. I suppose he meant in a mining way, as he is an old miner. He is inclined to be erratic and therefore extravagant in his statements at times. I think he was in one of those moods this morning. Anyway my interest is aroused. Please send me a copy of your journal and terms."

The British Columbia Financial Trust which now proposes to go into voluntary liquidation is one of the many London promotions which have been of no credit to the Province or to themselves. At a recent meeting of shareholders—a sort of funeral service over the corpse of a suicide—it came out that while the company was formed in 1897 the shareholders had received no statement of accounts or balance sheet since 1899. The directors, whom, it was shown, had received fees amounting to £3,000 to console them presumably for the loss of £50,000 of other people's money, had entered a further claim for arrears, and were openly accused of questionable conduct, which charge was not denied.

A correspondent, a prospector, writing to the New Denver *Ledge*, makes the very sensible suggestion that steps should be taken to compel claim holders to fence in, or in the case of abandoned ground, fill in, shafts or prospect holes, which otherwise are a source of danger. He remarks: "The country is getting full of old abandoned prospects whose shafts and upraises are not properly guarded. I think the law should require all such places to be filled, and until they are filled and abandoned, to be kept guarded by clearing the brush and dirt away for at least six feet around the hole, and be fenced in by a railing. This would give a man a chance for his life. I know the danger, as some of the workings I have seen will soon be entirely covered with brush. Upraises are the most dangerous; there is nothing but the hole, and it soon grows over."

Much indignation has been expressed at the action of the Crow's Nest Coal Company in advancing the price of coke from \$4.25 to \$4.50—a difference which it is said, adds in round figures a hundred dollars a day to the expense of operating the large smelters in the Boundary District. Of course even at the advanced rate the price of Crow's Nest coke is a good deal below the price of this commodity obtainable elsewhere, but that is hardly the point. The Crow's Nest Company claim also that it pays them better to sell their raw product at \$2 per ton at the mines than to manufac-