

Westminster Gazette, a leading London journal, plaintively notes Mr. Ogilvie's lectures are becoming a little wearisome, adding that "he seems to be doing more harm than good, exciting cupidity with his wonderful stories and yet saying that no importance is to be attached to them." In this, however, the lecturer is scarcely to be blamed. It is quite certain that he merely relates what he knows or believes to be facts, and if his statements had no other significance than attaches to the history of an explorer's experiences in an unknown country there would be no ground at all for criticism. The fact remains, however, that Mr. Ogilvie's visit to England this spring was particularly ill-timed.

The interesting statement is made that as a result of the reduction recently effected in the nominal capitalization of the Channe Mining Company, from one million to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, the demand since for the Company's stock has considerably increased—one record of a day's sales amounting to two thousand shares at par being instanced. This story is very likely correct, and there can be little doubt that if other concerns of the same class—or, to describe them more accurately, over-capitalized companies owning however fairly promising prospects in the province—would follow the Channe Company's lead, the public would show a freer disposition to engage in this kind of speculation. At present it is pretty generally a case between the investor and the over-capitalized company of "heads I win, tails you lose" for the Company or its promoters, and, naturally enough, the public having been taken in once or twice already has come to the conclusion that it is not good enough. But we are not at all in love with the western methods—introduced into British Columbia from San Francisco—of company capitalization, and we hope to see the English system yet become popular in the province. However, this is altogether too weighty a subject to discuss and dismiss in a paragraph, and we hope to deal with it more fully at a future time.

A bill "to relieve owners of mining claims who enlist in the military service of the United States for duty in the war with Spain from performing assessment work during such service" has been passed by the Senate of the United States. Someone facetiously asks if the Provincial Government could not be

induced to follow suit, in order to give the class of prospectors who are tying up large tracts of land by cheating the provisions of the Mineral Act an opportunity to go to the front and be shot.

The Kellie Truck Act has been warmly welcomed by labour circles in Rossland. There has, perhaps, been a little objection from some of the mine proprietors, and of course the smaller leeches dislike the dose of salt which forces them to free their hold. The notion is meanwhile current that if the labour employer simply allows a third party to act as nominal boarding house keeper, that the law will be thus evaded. If he does so in order to force the men to mess at the mine, he will be obliged to make it a condition of their employment. In such case the employer will bring himself under the operation of the law. If he does not, Mr. "Jack Straw boarding-house keeper" will find himself compelled to compete

with the legitimate businesses. Some of the employers aver that in boarding their men there is little or no profit, but if such be the case why object to the Truck Act? The B. A. C., as becomes a British corporation, are reported to be quite in sympathy with the Act, and a well-known American mine manager in Rossland has been heard to say that apart from the profits of the boarding-house, the men do better work if they are allowed a free hand in their domestic arrangements.

That is merely a confirmation of the old saw that "one volunteer is worth two pressed men."

Mr. Morris Catton, the well known London promoter of Klondike companies of a wholly speculative type, has been telling some marvellous stories to an after-dinner gathering of friends and admirers assembled at the Hotel Cecil, London. Amongst other things he said that the Klondike was an ideal land for labourers, as they could there make one thousand pounds a year. He did not, however, tell his hearers that labourer's wages in the Yukon are on the decline, and that he was assuming some 300 working days in the year, whilst an average Klondike mine-worker would probably labour less than 200 days. Nor did Mr. Catton add that, large as seem Klondike wages, the bulk of them are absorbed by the purchase of the necessaries of life, whilst the balance by no means overpays a man for the extreme hardships endured. Meanwhile the high cost of labour and work-



GOLDEN RIVER QUESNELLE CO.'S ENTERPRISE—DAM UNDER CONSTRUCTION.
(From a photo taken last year).