

British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I Am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

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THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY.

Evidently there is considerable placer gold in this northern region, as many thousands of dollars have recently been obtained there by a few fortunate miners. Doubtless more will be heard of this region ere the spring, when access thereto will be easier. The Peace River country, though in the far north of B.C., has a much milder climate than that of the Yukon, and is also far more accessible, as Barkerville, a point well on the way thereto, is easily reached via the C. P. R. and by the aid of the stage facilities of the B. C. Express Company. Possibly too the Cassiar Central Railroad Company might ultimately extend its connections to the Peace River via the Omineca country, on obtaining assurance of solidity of the mineral resources apparently likely to be discovered in the Peace River country. It is necessary as yet of course to speak conservatively, but the success of a few Peace River prospectors appears sufficiently encouraging to justify, as doubtless it will in due course, further well directed research.

THE PILOT BAY SMELTER.

This smelter will not now be reopened for work until the beginning of October, or rather later than at first expected, in consequence of the need of more considerable alterations and modifications than at once intended. It is also stated that working will not immediately recommence at the neighboring famous low grade silver-lead mine—the Blue Bell—this being doubtless a result of the further recent fall in silver. But the smelter will have enough contracts in hand, so it is stated, to begin work again on a large scale, without calling for Blue Bell ore. There is ore enough available from Rossland, the Slocan country and other points, including, of course, Ainsworth itself.

GOOD FOR THE SLOCAN.

Notwithstanding the fall in silver the Slocan continues to ship more largely than ever. Thus on a recent Sunday, the 22nd ult., the steamship Alberta bore away from Kamlo no less than 363

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