

"Golden Placer and Quartz Mining Co., Ltd." a concern recently promoted from Golden, B.C., and Knowlton, Quebec. The company "is now being incorporated under the Companies Act of British Columbia, with a capital of \$1,500,000," of the par value of \$1, "500,000 shares being retained in the treasury." These shares are offered for subscription at 10 cents. The company owns (1) a placer "mine" at the mouth of Canyon Creek, south of Golden, on which the prospectus states "a trial shaft has been sunk with satisfactory results" (what these results are is not mentioned) but gold, it is added, "it is not expected will be found in paying quantities until the vicinity of the bed-rock is reached." (2) the company is acquiring two mineral claims, "the lead being an immense body of quartz-impregnated with iron pyrites," roughly estimated as over 200 feet wide, but to quote again from the prospectus "the dip of the vein it was impossible to determine owing to there not as yet having been sufficient work done." A *surface* assay gave \$15.50 per ton gold values. Open confession is no doubt good for the soul, but while this prospectus is refreshingly candid we can hardly see how the promoters have the effrontery to offer, or how they can expect, the public to take shares, in, such a palpably wild speculation as this. And yet the prospectus naively describes these two unexploited prospects and the undeveloped placer claims, as "desirable mining properties," which "would seem to offer an almost absolute security for intending investors." Personally we would prefer the chances offered by the "nickel-in-the-slot machine." We regret to note in the list of provisional directors of this highly speculative venture the name of the Hon. Mr. Justice Lynch, of the Supreme Court Bench of Quebec.

There is much extravagant booming of the Howe Sound copper properties, which were recently acquired by a syndicate organized by Mr. H. C. Walters of Spokane. So far as can be ascertained by impartial experts, there seem to be very extensive deposits on the claims of low-grade copper. This will need to be most skilfully and economically worked and concentrated on the spot and very large expenditures indeed will also be necessary for aerial tramways and other plant. Then it is thought, on the strength of present indications, that sufficiently profitable results should accrue. But as already stated, large actual capitalization, representing money laid out; and most careful working are absolutely necessary conditions to success. The value of the Howe Sound ore is not sufficiently high to permit of a margin for waste, extravagance or inefficiency.

A correspondent, an independent mining engineer, sends us a very encouraging account of the conditions and prospects of the Van Anda Company's properties on Texada Island, and we are none the less gratified at receiving these good tidings, because of the fact that for some time past we have had misgivings as to the successful working of the Van Anda mines, and there were seemingly good reasons for mistrust. In the first place the property was most outrageously "boomed;" next, the erection of a smelter at a time when none of the properties had been proved beyond the prospect stage, and last but not least the enormous capitalization were all distinctly unfavourable factors in viewing the undertaking from a business standpoint. But even as matters stand now,

much has yet to be accomplished before the large capitalization is justified; and while Mr. Treat, the manager, is entitled to a good deal of admiration and praise for the plucky manner in which he has "stayed by" the Van Anda, it must be owned that the present apparently more hopeful state of affairs is due more to good luck than to good management. Our correspondent, meanwhile, informs us that the Van Anda properties have now been opened up to an extent of 2,000 feet, that the showing in both the Copper Queen and Cornell is very promising, and that from a casual examination it would appear that there is sufficient ore in sight in these two mines to supply forty tons daily to the smelter.

Prospectors in the outlying districts will, no doubt, appreciate the proposal of the Government—not yet, however, made public—to appoint Deputy Mining Recorders with power to receive and transmit records and affidavits, in localities far removed from the main offices. In some districts such as Cassiar and Omineca a prospector, after locating a claim, would not infrequently be obliged to travel a hundred miles or even more in order to record his discovery, and in localities where the working season is of short duration, this long journey was naturally considered a hardship. The proposed appointments will, however, go far towards remedying the grievance.

In the first annual report of the Geographical Board of Canada, a list is published giving the decisions of the Board as regards the correct and official spelling and designation of places in Canada, heretofore in dispute. Thus the word "Omineca" which even in Government reports and maps has been spelt in no less than four different ways, as "Omenica," "Ominica;" "Omeneca" is now officially written "Omineca;" "Stikene," not "Stickeen" nor "Sti-keen;" "Skagway," not "Skaguay" or "Shkagway;" "Yukon," not "Youkon," etc. Some of the rules of nomenclature and orthography of geographical names are as follows: When the priority of a name has been established by publication, particularly when such publication has occurred in any standard or authoritative work or works, that name should if possible, be retained. When names have been changed or corrupted, if not too firmly established by local usage or otherwise the original forms should be restored. As a rule the first published name should be retained. The possessive form should be avoided whenever it can be done without destroying the euphony of the name or changing its descriptive application. It is desirable to avoid the use of the words "city" and "town" as parts of names. The form "canyon" shall be used instead of "cañon". The Board suggests that the initial letters of generic or descriptive parts of geographical names, when used in reports or other documents, should not be capitals. French names in Canada are to be spelt according to the rules of the French language. The spelling of native geographical names should represent, approximately the true sounds of the words as pronounced in the native tongue. The Board, moreover, adopts the rules of the Royal Geographical Society for the orthography of geographical names.

We extract the following from the *London Critic*: "My excellent British Columbia contemporary, the MINING RECORD, is somewhat put out. It objects to