P. A. O'FARRELL IS INDIGNANT.

P. A. O'Farrell has done what he seldom or never did before he has written a sensible letter; Hewitt Bostock has done what he has never yet had much opportunity to do, he has made a fool of himself. It is not intended to imply that Mr. Bostock is a fool, on the contrary, he is a young man who is much too wise and would show more sense by being a little more foolish. The fact is that men like Bostock with the best intentions may become in public life a dangerous nuisance. Mr. Bostock wants to protect the investor against wildcat companies, a noble if Quixotic ambition. He does not see that if you try to protect the investor who cannot protect himself by stereotyped rules which any scoundrels sufficiently clever to be successful scoundrels can most easily evade, you simply make the fleecing of him more thorough and complete when it is done. That has been the effect of company legislation in Great Britain. It will have the same effect in Canada. Mr. Bostock to bear out his remarks attacked in the House of Commons two of the very best of Rossland's junior properties, the Nest Egg and the Palo Alto. Here is a plain and simple question: Have the people who put money into the Nest Egg and Palo Alto got value for their money? Of course they have: Troubles may have arisen, promoters may have exaggerated, brokers may have lied, such things do happen, but the shareholders have good value for their money. Nest Egg must be a property of great merit to have survived the treatment it has received. Mr. Bostock has evidently an idea that it is his mission to regulate the mining industry of Canada. Heaven forbid! Particularly when he starts out with the proposition that the people who put him where he is must be restrained by law from acts of roguery and theft. Mining in West Kootenay is honest mining and it is dividend paying mining. If people will come in from Eastern Canada or elsewhere, buy wildcats and then sell them to their aunts and cousins at four times the price, what has West Kootenay got to do with that. THE MINING REVIEW presents its compliments to Mr. Bostock and says to him as it said to his newspaper a short time ago, that it is time this blackmailing comment on mining in West Kootenay be discontinued; it recommends him to turn his attention to the mail service in his constituency.

As for Mr O'Farrell if the Hibernian overflow of his indignation has its humorous side that indignation is on the whole righteous and just. Kootenay has a past of long-suffering and patient labour, it has a future of splendid activity and rich returns. Against it are grouped a crowd of jealous outsiders who forget the years of sowing before the insiders began to reap. They discharge their spleen with little justification because what wildcatting has been done has been done by men of their own kidney. Let them take off their coats and work to develop the country as the people of Kootenay have worked in hardship and much discouragement and then we will hear them talk. Till then, they shall not rob our country of its good name without an effectual protest from men more qualified to speak than they are.

TORONTO AS A MINING CENTER.

The fact that the British Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its summer meeting for 1897 in Toronto, has called out from Canada a proposal that a joint meeting, or meetings, shall be held in the Dominion in which the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the British Iron and Steel Institute and the different associations of mining engineers in Canada and the Federated Institution of Mining Engineers of Great Britain are to be asked to join. In case the proposition is accepted arrangements will be made for a number of trips and excursions which will enable the visitors from abroad to study for themselves the mineral resources of the dominion.

The British Iron and Steel Institute, by the way, is given to excursions into foreign countries. Last year year the members "invaded the enemy's territory" by holding a meeting in Belgium, where the iron-masters are very active rivals for trade with their English brethern, and this year that institute has just completed a meeting in Spain, where the members have been visiting the mines from which they draw a considerable proportion of their iron-ore supply.