## HONEST REPORTING.

It is impossible to doubt that the mining districts of the west have been rather injured than helped by the injudicious and indiscriminate booming in the local press. This applies especially to the lesser camps, and in them to individual mines of minor importance. The great camps and the big mines not only do not need, but do not seek, this sort of advertising; in fact, it is often difficult to get reliable news about them.

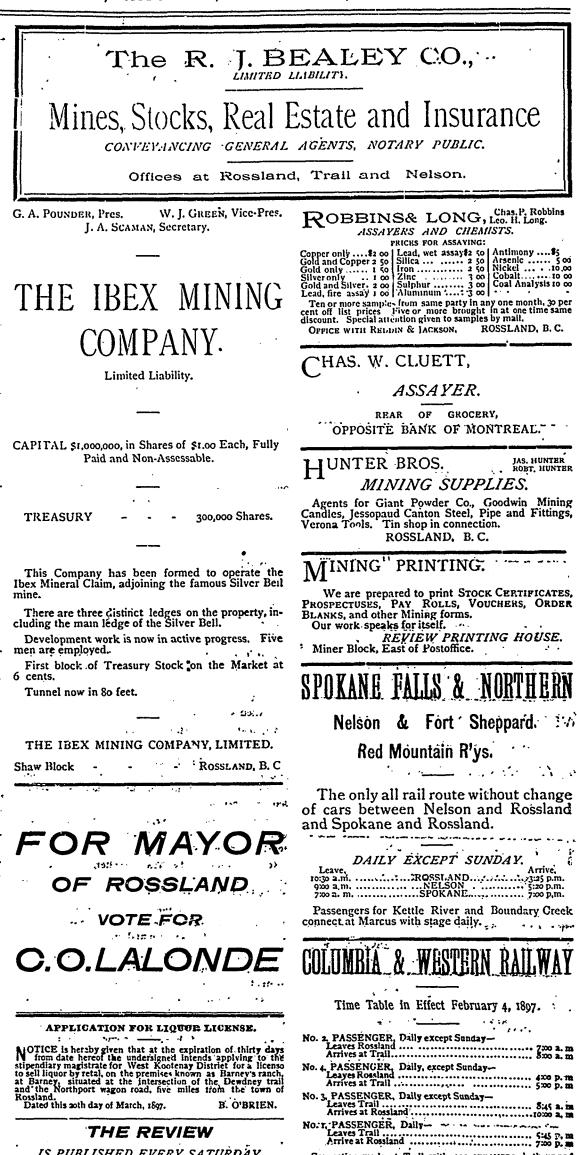
The case is altogether different from that of the systematically organized "whooping up" of some boom camps by means of paid advertisements and paid editorial space, as in the notorious example of the Southern "boom towns" of five and six years ago, when the central object of the scheme was rather to sell town lots than to invite capital for serious development, for the heavy capitalists are not so likely to be influenced by this sort of shouting as are people of small means and those at a distance unable to look into things for themselves, or obtain expert advice, before investing. On the contrary, in our western camps the efforts of the local newspapers are almost invariably inspired by the most commendable motives, and the habit of overstating everything has become so common that nobody considers it dishonest, since it is generally understood that a liberal discount is to be taken off all around. The trouble is that no definite standard has been as yet set up by which to measure the amount of allowance to be made. If there were some such rule one could get a fair approximation to fact by divlding every statement by, say, three, four, five, or whatever the co-efficient might be, and scaling down to one-third, one-fourth, etc., discarding the surplus as conventional embellishment. Nobody is deceived, yet the amount of information imparted is vaguely small.

This curious survival of the early misty days when "everything went" about mining is like the parallel one, on a larger scale, in which we occasionally find people who believe certain things, because they saw them "in print." This latter order of beings is rapidly becoming extinct. So also are those who are likely to be taken in by distorted accounts of mines or mining districts, and those who are thus deceived are hardly the ones whose opinion or backing would be of any substantial assistance to the camps or the mines boomed. On the contrary, a repulsive effect is the usual outcome. The poor tenderfoot and the trusting British "small investor" have been slowly passing through a bitter educational course, and most of them are already pretty far advanced, while a few have even graduated.

In the long run it pays to tell the truth. Misstatements at the outset, or in any particular at any time, are bound to be exposed, and then a prejudice is established, even against the most meritorious properties, which it is very hard to overcome. A conservative, honest account of the actual facts, so far as it? is possible to ascertain them, is of real value in placing" matters before the outside world; and the only people who are likely to invest are quite able to "size up" unreliable printed descriptions.-Engineering and Mining Journal. 

## A VISIT TO THE VICTORY.

This is the first year since the beginning of time that any part of the Dewdney trails west of Rossland, has been kept open tl rough the winter. And but for the unprecedented snow fall of the last two weeks there would have been no difficulty at all in maintainin communication right through the season over the first divide. As it is, although the trip to the Victory mine is disagreeable on account of the heavy snow on the summit, it is not yet impossible. Fortunately, ample supplies were put in a month ago to keep the mine running for some time, and spring must come some day. This mine is well worth going to see, even through the snow. The amount of ore developed has to be seen to be realised. From the entrance of the main development tunnel, now in 165 feet, to the face, nothing but ore and quartz has been-taken out. Not one, single hole, has been drilled in country rock. Much of this ore is low grade concentrating ore, but some of it is of shipping grade as it is broken down from the mine, and all of it mixed together and con-centrated will result in profitable working. The face of the tunnel looks better than it ever did before, and there is a high grade scam of ore on the hanging wall which cannot be beaten by anything in the Trail Creek district. There are about five feet of snow on the ground. At this time last year it was bare of snow altogether. main development tunnel, now in 165 feet, to the face,.



## THE REVIEW

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Connection made at Trail with ALL STEAMERS, both up and down the Columbia river. For freight rates and further particulars, write to

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