

enterprise with unremitting vigour, and this it may be expected to do, for its affairs are now in the hands of men who act rather than talk. We offer sincere congratulations to all concerned, upon the facts that success now appears to be at hand, and that their important undertaking bids fair to soon bring them an abundant return.

The Ymir mine, owned since September, 1898, by the British company known as the Ymir Gold Mines, Ltd., has experienced some remarkable vicissitudes during its active history, which dates back to 1896, in November of which year the London & British Columbia Gold Fields, Ltd., commenced work on it. For a while it was operated at considerable profit, so that dividends amounting in the aggregate to \$200,000 were, in 1901, distributed among its stockholders. Afterwards, the average values contained in the ore fell to such an extent that it has been difficult latterly to keep the mine working. The turning in its long lane of adversity seems, however, to have been reached at last. Brief notes of the change for the better are given, under the heading of Company Cables, on another page, and the information there contained may be supplemented by the following, from the *Ymir Herald*: "The improved condition reported in our last issue is still further improved and on the 5, 6, and 7 levels there is now a large quantity of pay ore. In the west drift on the 500-ft. level the rich ore already reported maintains its width and value, while in the east drift of the 700-ft. level 10 ft. of \$12 ore is reported." Better times for the Ymir mine may, therefore, be expected, and with good grounds for confidence in their being at hand.

The *Nelson Tribune* appears to have been indulging lately in that popular western diversion known as "joshing," in connection with the recently published opinions of a Mr. Horace F. Evans, who describes himself as "explorer and geologist," concerning the classification of the Nicola coals. It is intimated that the gentleman of the "Liberal College of Art," as we has seen him designated, does *not* agree with Dr. R. W. Ells, of the Geological Survey Department of Canada, but *does* agree with the present editor of the *Tribune*, who in his professional capacity of coal expert some time since made a pronouncement with which, it seems, Dr. Ells is not in accord. This is from the *Tribune*: "The able report of Horace F. Evans of the United States Geological Survey which we printed last night settles the vexed question of the classification of the Nicola coals. Four years ago the writer in face of strong protest on the part of interested parties, and the production of fancy analyses, pronounced it a 'lignitic' field, and declared that a correct understanding of the geological formation precluded any other conclusion. One of the highest authorities on the continent now fully endorses this opinion and we imagine his report will be final." Being like the man from Missouri, we require that some one "show me," before believing that Mr. Horace F. Evans is either "of the United States Geological Sur-

vey," or "one of the highest authorities on the continent," so we wrote to the United States Geological Survey making enquiry concerning Mr. Evans' alleged connection with that important institution. The acting director of the Survey replied: "Mr. Horace F. Evans is not a member of this Survey, and has never been connected with it in any way. Any representation which he may attempt to make to that effect is false." It is but fair to Mr. Evans to point out that, so far as we have seen, the allegation in this direction was not made by himself, but by the *Tribune*, to which the falsity must be attributed. As to whether or not the Nicola coals have been properly classified by Dr. Ells, we are not greatly agitated. We had that experienced geologist's specific assurance that tests made under his direction showed those he had dealt with to be coking coal, which is of infinitely more importance, from our practical standpoint, as bearing upon the relation they may be expected to have to the reduction of ores occurring in the Nicola and surrounding districts, than the opinions of so-called "highest authorities," or even those of such an unusual combination as that of coal expert and newspaper editor. But, to return to our first expressed impression—the *Tribune* must have been "joshing."

Last month we stated that Mr. W. B. Pool, who is notorious in connection with great expectations and, to date, barren results—so far as gold production to any appreciably large extent is concerned—from the Lucky Jack mineral claim, Poplar creek, (respecting which the *Rossland Miner* and other unscrupulous newspapers published, during the latter half of 1903, grossly exaggerated reports), "is the man who tried to deceive the provincial mineralogist, when that official visited Poplar creek, by showing rich gold specimens he falsely alleged were taken from a claim he was largely interested in, seemingly with the object of favourably influencing the expected official report." We did Mr. Pool injustice to this extent, that we inadvertently omitted several words. Our charge, as then intended and now more fully stated, is that he falsely represented that the rich gold specimens were taken from a tunnel then being driven on a claim he was largely interested in. The words we now italicise were omitted last month. We have no doubt that rich gold specimens were found on and near the surface on the Lucky Jack claim. Mr. Pool's deliberate knavery lay in his attempt to make the provincial mineralogist believe that rich gold quartz had been met with at depth, when it had not, as the official visitor promptly ascertained. The *Lardeau Mining Review* observes that "the *Mining Record* accuses W. B. Pool of a very serious—what we would call—crime." That is just the point; we, too, call it crime, but instead of following the *Lardeau Mining Review's* course, which is the old trick of "no case, so bully the witness," we contend that the crime should have been punished severely. No good can come of imputing "personal animus" to the *MINING RECORD*, which has the hearty approval, in its condemnation of such fraud, of all who desire to see the mining indus-