

of money, unhindered by restrictions against the building of railroads and the importation of supplies, there will come a development of mineral resources that will astonish the world. But the successful opening up of these riches depends upon the way in which the work is undertaken. If companies are floated on the London plan, at large capitalization and with immense expenses attending their organization and subsequent management, and the selection of the properties they shall work is left to the interested promoters, ghastly failures will soon occur that will dishearten investors and discourage operations. If on the other hand judicious and practical men will take up carefully chosen ground that has not got inflated by boomers, paying moderate prices to the original discoverers and proceeding to work upon business principles, there will undoubtedly be a record of successes that will establish the permanency of profitable mining in British Columbia.

Undoubtedly there will follow a boom, wild company promotion and gambling in shares. But there will exist a solid basis of productive wealth that will ensure a continued operation of mines even if speculators are crushed in the ruins of a declining market.

It is reported that several large companies are already formed in London, with a view to developing British Columbia properties. There is not so much to be hoped from these hap-hazard enterprises as from the intelligent and systematic operations of practical Canadian and American miners, who will work up the mines from small beginnings and avoid the fiascos that are apt to follow operations directed by a board of foreign directors, chiefly remarkable for their titles or their success in gulling the public. It is to be hoped that the preliminary work of opening up the country will be done in a business-like manner, and that our capitalists will be willing to invest their means in efforts to develop legitimate mining operations, rather than risk them by gambling in the shares of companies that have only fictitious or problematical workings as a basis for existence. A few successes will bring practical mining men of world-wide reputation to invest their means and devote their energies to the efficient working of the ore bodies. Already the declaring of dividends by the War Eagle mine at Trail Creek, B.C., has brought in the great mining men of the west to buy up neighboring properties; and the interest is extending westward so that we hear of the advent into the Boundary Creek district of such famous names as Marcus Daly, John A. Finch, Farrell and Midgeon, and other mining kings of America.

Premier Turner of British Columbia when in England lately said: "What is wanted in order to attract more attention to the province is some actual returns in the form of dividends from some of our large new mines. When this is forthcoming, which will, I believe, be very soon, we shall have a proportionate boom in the precious metals of British Columbia to that which is taking place with regard to South Africa. At the present time South Africa is, to a certain extent, attracting a great deal of capital which we should like to draw to British Columbia. I have been talking to several parties interested in South African mines, and on my suggesting that probably a great deal might be lost, as there is so much gambling in mining stocks, and that it would be better for them to transfer their investments to British Columbia, the invariable reply is:— 'Large fortunes have been and are being made in South Africa, not only by members of the stock exchange, but large dividends have actually been paid to the shareholders at home.' When capitalists see the published returns of these companies they naturally think that South Africa is the best place for them to invest in. What we want in order to divert attention to British Columbia is to have a good output from our mines and to have it made known, and thus to show that British Columbia mines can pay dividends, thereby giving an opportunity of our figures being compared with other mineral producing countries."

The effort of those interested in Canadian mining progress should be to encourage the working of promising mineral prospects and to discourage all legislation that increases the cost of mining or prevents the building of lines for transportation. Great districts are waiting for the

advent of railways. The ore is of too low a grade to bear the cost of wagon hauling, packing by horses and raw-hiding. But with the coming of the railroad, we shall see the smelter, the concentrator, the cyanide and chlorination works, and perhaps even the electric smelter, taking hold of the hitherto neglected rocks, and by the new, cheap and effective processes they will pour out wealth that will place Canada in the front rank of the mining countries of the world.

It is not only in British Columbia that the mining boom will strike. From the Atlantic to the Pacific mineral wealth abounds throughout Canada. The coal of Nova Scotia, the Northwest and the Pacific coast; the gold of Nova Scotia, Chaudiere in Quebec, Hastings County, Rainy Lake and Rat Portage in Ontario; the nickel of Sudbury; the iron of Ontario; and many silver mines scattered along the great lakes—all these invite the attention of the investor who would seek wealth from the rocks.

Our plea is for work in intelligently conducted mines, rather than for gambling in the shares of companies solely promoted, not to mine in the earth but to burrow into the pockets of those who have the greed for gain without the ennobling sentiment of producing wealth.

Advice may be given in consideration of the foregoing remarks to two classes of people: First, to the owners of mining prospects or partially developed mines. Do not go to London to sell your properties at a large figure to grand companies. The large price is usually on paper and the vendor is fortunate if he gets away with the coat on his back. The chance of successful working of the mine by a company organized with a large capital and managed expensively by absentees is very small. It is the fashion to decry the efforts of Americans in Canada and to appeal to the patriotic sentiment of "British capital for the British empire." But a true spirit of loyalty would welcome the speedy development of the country and would welcome a foreign capitalist or an American railway, if by their means mines could be worked that would otherwise be idle for years. Considering that the capital invested in initial enterprises is very apt to be lost, there should not be any reluctance to letting strangers take the risk.

The following advice, written to a Canadian mine owner by one of the most eminent mining experts in the United States is pertinent here:—"I think that it will be far better to have the property taken up by a live American syndicate or company, than by one of those English development companies to which you refer. The latter would take forty years getting to work, while the American company will be working the property for all it is worth before the English company could get through wrangling about formalities and holding long-winded meetings of directors, who know about as much of what they are discussing as a monkey knows of the man in the moon."

If the owners of mining property would consent to take a large proportion of its price in shares of the company, thus sharing in the risk and profits of the work, a vastly greater number of operations would be undertaken and much larger sums would sometimes be realized by the vendor. Capitalists will put up money to work but they are loth to pay it out in advance for the privilege of working.

Secondly, the lesson to capitalists who wish to do legitimate mining is never to invest in an over-capitalized and grandly officered company. If they wish to gamble in shares the company with the greatest amount of buncombe may be the best, but if they seek dividends from mining operations let them get near to bed-rock and know the men who are in charge.

But men will gamble rather than work and wait, and in spite of all preaching the boom will come. Colorado will produce as much gold as South Africa, and British Columbia has perhaps an even greater capacity. The boomsters have their eye on these quarters, and if public interest is aroused by large returns of profit, speculation in shares and the organization of wild-cat companies is sure to follow. In spite of the disasters that eventually come from these efforts, a certain amount of good results to the country from the expenditure of money, and, what is one man's loss is another man's gain. At any rate it is well to understand the true meaning of these movements, and such articles as that in the *Investor's Review* are valuable and timely.