

British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Dedicated to the Interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

THURSDAY,.....SEPT. 9, 1897.

Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining, mining machinery, mining laws, and matters relating to the mineral development of Canada, are always welcome.

Manufacturers and Dealers in appliances used in and about mines are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.

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VANCOUVER AND THE YUKON.

Vancouver merchants complain that in circulars and advertisements widely distributed by commercial authorities in Victoria, it is at least an inference suggested that the Island City is the only convenient B. C. point whereat to fit out and obtain supplies for the Clondyke country. Vancouver is, however, rather nearer the northern gold fields than Victoria, so, too, nearer to the base of supply of most of the necessary fitting commodities, which are generally shipped from eastern Canada and England to Victoria via Vancouver over the C.P.R., though the same freight rates are given by the railroad from either city. Intending gold seekers in Clondyke can moreover make thither in the proper season by steamships leaving Vancouver, and the next spring, before which it were suicidal madness for the ordinary man to make for the north, there will doubtless be such regular shipping communications established directly between Vancouver and Alaskan and Yukon points of departure for the Clondyke gold fields that will leave nothing to be desired. The far northern country can in fact be conveniently reached next spring, either via Victoria or through Vancouver, suitable outfits being previously obtained from leading merchants in either city.

But the MINING CRITIC emphatically urges would be Clondyke venturers to wait till spring. Those who have recently sought to rush thither are now either suffering in most cases hardships and dangers passing description, or else—as hundreds are doing or about to do—returning to winter at various coast points, wiser and sadder, because poorer, disappointed and altogether disenchanted.

NATURAL YET DISCOURAGING.

The London, Eng., Daily Mail of August 24th speaks as follows concerning the B. C. division of the London Stock Exchange :

"The British Columbia special mining market apparently moves in the inverse ratio to the new Clondyke companies, which issue their prospectuses day by day. It has now been reduced to one member, who stands in a solitary way, without seeming to expect any business, his pockets bursting with prospectuses, and a kind of forlorn-hope look in his eye. He is distinctly suggestive of the historic policeman who could walk arm in arm with himself, and he does not think that the new field will get into working order before April 1."

Our Province has doubtless to attribute this result to the fact that too many of its mining companies as yet floated in London, have been inflated by undue capitalisation and excess purchase values imposed for the benefit of too grasping promoters and other middlemen. The outcome, though doubtless a temporary result only, is highly regrettable. And the certain early future collapse of most of the Clondyke exploration companies founded in London won't improve the B. C. special mining market in the great money centre of the world, for but too many Britons consider the Yukon to be British Columbia territory. Some of our most prominent British Columbian public men will probably yet bitterly regret the day when they allowed their names to be connected with extremely risky Clondyke companies floated in England, some of which, by the bye, contain in their prospectuses absurd misstatements of fact. One