

# British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

## British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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

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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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## MINING ON THE COAST AND ISLANDS.

There is now good reason to believe that ere the end of the year several profitably productive precious metal, copper and lead bearing mines will be added to the list of successful B. C. undertakings from amongst a number of organizations that are now operating promising claims in various districts on the Coast, on Vancouver Island and on several isles of the Gulf of Georgia. It is too early yet to particularize and predict with assurance which of the many claims located in these wide districts, will justify the confidence reposed in them, but there are on Frederick's Arm, up Lynn Creek, on Burrard Inlet, on Texada Island, in the Alberni district, and on Pitt and Harrison Lakes mineral properties which will, to all appearance, judging by test assays and the results of preliminary operations, yield satisfactory results, if and when worked on business methods and without undue capitalization.

In many instances assays show ore considerably richer in gold and copper than the average mines of Trail Creek, whilst in and about Alberni are also claims apparently rich in free-milling gold. One great advantage of mines

sea to smelters and refineries. These ores can be very cheaply conveyed, mainly by water, even to somewhat distant smelters and refineries in the States of Washington and California respectively, it being reckoned that the saving in the cost of transport thus made over the cost of the carriage of like ores in some of the best mines in the Kootenays will run from \$5 to \$10 a ton. Hence a considerably lower grade of ore can be profitably mined on the coast and islands than in the case of the Kootenays. Then, too, our coast and island climate is milder, and mine operations can be conducted under easier and cheaper conditions and with little interruption by stress of weather, even in the worst of winters.

Some have maintained that there is less certainty of large and continuous bodies of paying ore on the coast and islands than in the best of the upper mine country, but there is good reason to believe that this is an unsafe generalization, and we have every hope that several of our coast and island districts will, ere even this year closes, make notable additions to the mineral output of the Province. If so, the establishment of a smelter at some convenient coast or island center will become, not indeed absolutely necessary, but in the highest degree desirable.

Our coast and island ores could without it, go to Tacoma, to Everett, or to San Francisco,—possibly by then also to the proposed new smelter at Seattle—but it were better and cheaper to smelt and refine them at home.

### A POLICY TO BE AVOIDED.

The Dominion House of Commons, the Government opposing the restriction, has refused to insert in the Crow's Nest charter clauses preventing the employment of Mongol cheap labor on the line and in its associated coal mining industry of the future. There are already, however, in our upper mine country thousands, and will be more, of sturdy men of British, American, Teutonic and Scandinavian