

necessary supervision of the mining interest are, properly enough, levied in all nations except the United States. We had a bullion tax, and spent none of it for the miners; now we have no tax, which is better, at least than the former system."

"The question, whether the government should sell the mines or only license their working, is to be answered, in this country, in favor of the first alternative, unless we are prepared to establish and administer a vast mining system over our scattered districts. I think the true course is to alienate the mines from the United States as soon as possible and to do this upon a general and uniform policy, preventing the necessity of special legislation."

"The manner of conveying titles to the mines should be so regulated as to avoid as far as possible all litigation in future, and at the same time encourage mining. For, it must be remembered, in surrendering the title to the mines wholly to the patentee, we remove that stimulus to their development which the conditions of the possessory title formerly maintained; and we can only rely on the natural laws of supply and demand to secure the continued working of the mines. According to those laws, profit limits production, and mining must be profitable to the individual, if it is to be continued for any length of time. Now, passing a title to the miner which is indefinite or ambiguous, and brings him into conflict with his neighbour, is laying a heavy burden on mining, and so, without gain to any one, diminishing the product of bullion."

If the Government will sell Crown Grants for silver mines, how can they refuse to sell placer mines to the Free Miner?

Your neighbors bid high with liberal laws for the emigrant, miner and capitalist. If British Columbia desires them let her do likewise. Remember, that fully forty thousand miners have visited this country. You did not bid high enough to keep them and lost them. British Columbia is still bidding low.

I again ask your influence to aid in having the "Gold Mining Ordinance, 1867," repealed and a liberal law passed in its place, which will aid the Free Miner, and through him every interest in the Province, by attracting capital and capitalists to our shores.

I make this appeal to you, for if I do not, I know of no one who will.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES C. LANE.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 24th, 1872.