

"whilst his entrenched and powerful enemy is alleged  
"to be the Canadian Pacific Railway. While David's  
"weapon was a sling Mr. Watts is depending on pub-  
"licity, etc., etc.

Without egotism, the writer accepted the compliment as earned and deserved. Some of the pebbles hit the spot, and did useful work for the good of the public.

"Saturday Night" does much good along the same lines by its fearless criticisms of abuses, thereby winning the support and admiration of thousands of its subscribers. Such a journal can be a mighty influence for good, in equal proportion it can do harm and some who may suffer thereby are not capable of defending themselves. For instance, in the matter of developing what are honestly believed to be genuine prospects in their initial stages, it is very difficult for small companies to obtain funds and the great resources of the country are consequently, in many cases, left undeveloped. The suggestion of stock-jobbing is sufficient to break up small prospecting companies who are honestly struggling to unearth the hidden wealth in which Canada abounds.

Investing in mining stock is a gamble, more or less, but investors do not mind the frequent losses made, provided the cash is used in honest endeavors to develop the properties for which the money is subscribed; but in many instances the opposite is the case and promoters find that mining the public is far easier than pounding rock and an easy way to dodge work and live in luxury. The general public know very little of the mode of operations except that they often part with their cash and that is the last they hear of it.

Recently, I have had my first experience of the inner workings and methods adopted by some of the promoting fraternity, some of whom had been extremely generous in the allotment of shares to themselves and rather niggardly in rendering services or anything else in return. The story will be a long one and I hope interesting. At any rate, it will do for a moral and a warning. The names of the Operators will not be disclosed until near the end of the story.

Some time since I was approached by an agent of a Company, then consisting of about 500 small shareholders, a million dollar company, in debt, but possessing valuable freehold land and some leases or licences, etc.