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## The Canadian Mining Journal

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### CIRCULATION.

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### CHRISTMAS.

The year that is just about to close has brought success to many a mining camp. From Nova Scotia to the Yukon we are receiving advices that warrant us in expecting largely increased annual outputs. Corporations and individuals have prospered.

The whole beauty of Christmas lies in bringing comfort and joy not only to the members of our own households, but to those whose ways are darkened with suffering and want. And no giving is more seemly, none brings more pure pleasure, than the giving that helps sick and suffering little children.

Our readers will notice in our advertising pages the plea of the Hospital for Sick Children. To the forceful eloquence of this plea we can add nothing beyond the statement that, in our belief, this is one of the noblest and most urgent of all humane institutions.

What better means of truly celebrating Christmas could be chosen by the mining committees of Ontario than in contributing according to their means to brightening the day for sick little children!

### MONTREAL RIVER.

There is a discouraging risk attached to any honest expression of opinion about a mining prospect. The most promising surface exposure may lead to nothing. Riches may lie in wait for him who follows a most unlikely outcrop.

But there are prospects and prospects. For instance, in the Nevada goldfields it is not unusual to sink through hundreds of feet of rhyolite before striking pay ore. Knowledge of the immediately surrounding country makes such ventures commercially possible. And there are many analogous cases in the mining districts of foreign countries.

It is well, however, to re-emphasize the plain truth about the Montreal River districts. The most authoritative opinions—here we do not refer to those that are appended to borkers' advertisements—when boiled down agree in all vital respects. These points of agreement may be set out in a few sentences.

The new silver region is worth spending money upon. Several of the properties appear to have exceptional potentialities. The expenditure of money in opening them needs no justification. It is good business.

On the other hand there is not one jot or tittle of common sense in paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for unproved claims. A calm view of the situation reveals at once that there is no basis for such prices. Small quantities of native silver, "strong" outcroppings of calcite, are not mines. Their value is negative, and must remain negative until many dollars are spent in clearing