

acting in the capacity of an agent, notwithstanding that the arrangement is invariably made on partnership terms. It seems to us that it is not desirable to limit the earning powers of the prospector, a result, which if this section is embodied in the act, it is likely to have. The object no doubt is to aim a blow at the promiscuous staking of claims in one locality and the holding of them under the present pernicious system of abandonment and relocation, whereby the requirements of the act in the matter of assessment work is avoided. But if this surmise is correct a less clumsy and probably more successful method could, we think, be devised to restrict the practice.

Mr. J. W. Astley, whose portrait we reproduce on this page, is a mining engineer of recognized ability and of extensive and varied experience gained during the past fifteen years in the mining states of Montana and Idaho and lately in British Columbia. For a considerable portion of this period, nearly a third, he was connected, in an important capacity, with the Drummond Mine, at Marysville, Montana, where the problem of the profitable operation of low-grade ores has been most successfully solved. In 1896 Mr. Astley came to Rossland to undertake the charge and administration of Mr. F. A. Heinze's mining investments in this country, and he also reported on mines and properties for that well-known mine operator and millionaire. After Mr. Heinze disposed of the Trail smelter and his other interests in British Columbia Mr. Astley accepted an appointment as consulting engineer to the British Columbia (Rossland and Slocan) Syndicate, Ltd., of London, one of whose properties, the promising Snowshoe mine, at Phenix, was described at length in last month's issue of the MINING RECORD. Like the majority of mining engineers of real ability Mr. Astley has the reputation of being extremely cautious in his judgments and conservative in his utterances, and it is men

of this stamp that will be most useful in placing our mining industry in the sound and substantial position it is destined ere long to occupy.

The mining communities of not only the United States but of Canada have much cause to deplore the death, which occurred suddenly in New York on April 18th, of Mr. Richard P. Rothwell, editor of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, a periodical which bears the reputation of being the foremost technical mining

publication of the world. Mr. Rothwell not only a successful journalist but was a mining engineer of distinguished attainments. As the organizer of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in 1871, and the editor and publisher of the annual publication, "Mineral Industry: Its Technology and Trade." His name and great services will long be held in grateful and appreciative remembrance by the mining world.



MINING MEN OF THE PROVINCE—MR. J. W. ASTLEY, M.E.

It is our pleasing duty to again congratulate the directors and shareholders of the Ymir Gold Mines on the close of another year of successful and, all things considered, eminently satisfactory achievement attending the operation of the Ymir mine. As will be seen from the report published elsewhere in this issue, during the past twelve months the capacity of the mill has been doubled and other plant installed, the entire cost having been defrayed out of profits. The balance sheet moreover shows that a net profit of £30,000 was earned after distributing £20,000 in dividends. The mine, too, is in a substantially better position than at any previous period, the development work of the past year having proved continuity of the vein at greater depth and added considerably to the ore reserves. An additional source of revenue may also be expected this year from the application of the cyanide process to the treatment of the tailings, experimental tests in this direction having