"A large majority of the 2,000 claims in the district are yet in the hands of the original locators—poor men who need the assistance of capital. Claims can be purchased on very reasonable terms, and, with the assurance of railroad connection in the very near future, where is there a safer field for the investment of capital ?"

The Boundary Creek "Times."

We have received number one, volume one, of the Boundary Creek *Times*, published at Greenwood City, B.C. It is in every way a most creditable production. Well edited, neatly printed, and full of valuable information about the district it represents, the Boundary Creek *Times* will no doubt succeed as it most assuredly deserves to. Greenwood City may be proud of its new paper.

Mining Companies.

WE clip the following from the *Mining Review*, Ottawa:

"Mr. Thos. Tonge in a letter to the London *Mining Journal*, gives the following reasons for the disappointments realized in mining investments on this side. He says:

"Many mining enterprises, good and sound in themselves, placed in England, have proved financial failures to the shareholders by reason of the following:

"1. Over-capitalization. For instance, a property for which the vendor received, say, £20,000, being more than worth every shilling of it, is floated on the British market at, say, £50,000 or £75,000, or even more, with the result that, whereas the property would have paid handsome dividends on a capital of £30,000, no management can make it pay satisfactory dividends on the exaggerated sum at whch it is floated.

"2. Exorbitant 'rake-off' by promoters and middlemen, which inevitably is at the expense of the duped shareholder. Too many promoters are not content with a fair remuneration for their trouble, but look for big profits from unloading stock and not from ore shipments.

"3. Excessive office and directors' expenses at the English headquarters, even though involving the curtailing of necessary expenses at the mines. The wealthiest and most experienced and successful mining men in Colorado do not waste their time on public stock companies with the minimum of efficiency and the maximum of red tape formality and office expense, but form themselves into small private syndicates or companies, the capital being furnished by themselves, and a few personal friends, and the money put into efficient work on the properties.

"4. Inexperienced and incompetent mining engineers, managers, etc., usually relatives or connections of the directors, sent out to report upon or manage, or in some way draw a salary at the time.

"Everyone acquainted with Canadian mining will endorse the truth of Mr. Tonge's observations. At the same time it is noteworthy that not a few Canadian mines upon which thousands of dollars were expended foolishly have been, and are to-day, being worked at a profit by Canadians and Americans."

A Mendacious Sheet.

A JOURNALISTIC venture has appeared in Rossland under the name of the *Mining Review*. Fortunately for the credit of the mining industry in British Columbia it stands alone in its advocacy of methods which are not creditable to those engaged in them. The mining papers of this province although they may not agree with each other at all times are, so far as we have seen, a unit in discouraging anything that may savour of unscrupulous promotion of mining companies. The only exception is the new publication at Rossland—the *Mining Review*. It favours, and is probably published in the interest of men who are concerned more in making money out of stock speculation than from the development of our mines. The *British Columbia Mining Record* is in favour of mining development in this province and the proper and legitimate introduction of capital for that purpose. The *Mining Review* says that Trail Creek is on its knees to the public for money for legitimate mining. Trail Creek is nothing of the sort. It certainly invites capital, and all it has to do is to let the wealth of the district be known in a thoroughly reliable manner and and not through misleading prospectuses and it will obtain all the capital it requires. Trail Creek is all right and as its great mineral resources become more known through the efforts of its mining men and reputable mining newspapers money will flow in. It is already flowing in as we all know and the only thing that may hinder it is the efforts of mendacious sheets such as the *Mining Review* of Rossland.

"Authorized Capital."

IN this issue we publish a list of incorporated mining companies. We do not pretend to say that it is complete, but it gives a very fair idea of the large amount of incorporated capital there is at the precent moment in British Columbia mining. It is safe to say that over two hundred million dollars represent the capital stock of our mining companies, and of this immense sum how much is likely to be devoted to the devlopment of our mines? We fear a very small proportion indeed.

Most of it is, of course, only on paper, but it must have been placed there for a purpose, which we believe was, in most instances, one of pure speculation. The good of our mines had little to do with it.

This inflation gives a fictitious character to mining investments in British Columbia. It is not fair to those who invest in shares, and leaves the door open for the worst kind of stock gambling. No company should be incorporated for a larger sum than is actually required to carry on its business with a reasonable amount in reserve to provide against contingencies.

In Montana we believe all incorporated capital over a certain amount is taxed by the State, and the result is that companies are careful to incorporate only for such sums as may reasonably be required. The only danger we see in a law of this kind if applied to British Columbia is that it might have a deterring effect upon the introduction of capital generally. Capital as a rule is exceedingly sensitive to the imposition of a tax upon it, a