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All communications relating to the editorial department of the British Columbia MINING RECORD to be addressed to THE EDITOR, B.C. MINING RECORD,

P.O. Drawer 645, Victoria, B.C.

All communications relating to the business department of the British Columbia MINING RECORD to be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, B.C. MINING RECORD,

P.O. Drawer 645, Victoria, B.C.

OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

OUR subscribers, we think, will not be slow in appreciating the free distribution to them—in addition to the regular December issue—of a special Christmas number of the MINING RECORD, which will be issued from the press in the course of a few days. The publication of this special edition has entailed a very considerable expenditure of money, time and labour, and we can in all modesty claim that it approaches as nearly as possible, with the facilities at hand, that high standard which has been reached by wealthier literary publications in older lands. It is, we might point out, the first venture of the kind attempted by any periodical in Western Canada, and that the *materiel*, letter-press and skilled workmanship are each and all distinctly British Columbian. As to the literary merit of the work, among our contributors we may mention such well-known names as Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Mr. Hill-Tout, Mr. A. Scaife and Mr. Phillipps-Wolley. It is our intention to produce a similar issue semi-annually to which our regular subscribers will be entitled as in the present case.

THE private letter of a correspondent the other day made the very strong statement: "London is unmistakably hostile to British Columbia mines." It is not certain that "hostile" is the proper word to use. If it is then there is a more hopeful outlook for British Columbia mines in London than there has been. Because hostility implies feeling, and London is never hostile to things out of which there is no money to be made. It is simply apathetic. But where London knows there is money to be made,

and London for some reason is not making it, that hurts, and hostility is an adequate description of its feeling. It is only to be hoped that the London business man is, for British Columbia's interests, in this very salutary frame of mind, because he can be trusted to discover what is wrong and to apply the remedy. The trouble does not lie in the country, so much is certain. There never was a country which has made more poor men rich and more rich men richer than the Kootenay country when the amount of capital invested in relation to the profits that have been made is considered. Nor is there any country offering richer rewards in its still unexplored and partially explored territory. And yet British Columbia is represented to the London business man by some seventeen companies that are at all ever heard of, of which the shares of nine stand at a nominal premium, while there are active dealings in only three or four. There is obviously something wrong, which, if it is not the fault of the country must be the fault of either the London business man or of the people of British Columbia. As a matter of fact both are to blame. In the first place, with regard to the attempts of English capital to obtain a footing in British Columbia, there has been a general inefficiency of service in the field. This is a somewhat sweeping statement and it is qualified by some brilliant exceptions, but on the whole it is true. This inefficiency has been displayed in many different ways. An apparent incapacity to judge of the resources of a mineral belt when it is first discovered appears uniformly true of all English engineers and experts. In dealing with prospects they are hopelessly at sea. They went through the Slocan country and turned their backs on that. They went through the Rossland country and turned their backs on that, and they are walking in scores over good mines to-day; nor do they seem to see what they have missed until some one else has demonstrated it beyond question. Peculiar and special incapacity has characterised exploration companies backed by English capital. The most notorious instances are the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Company, and the company associated with the name of Grant Govan. But while these