

Hill, Mother Lode, Sunset and other companies operating on a large scale" are continuing to together employ—not "thousands" as mis-stated—but hundreds of men, with no present prospect of shutting down their mines. It is a pity that the *Toronto World*, which has probably published more information—and much of it reliable, notwithstanding its representative's failing above referred to—should lend its columns to scare-producing ends and so foster a lack of confidence in Boundary stocks when local conditions do not really warrant such mistrust.

It seems impossible for some newspapers no matter what side they are taking in the eight-hour law controversy, to refrain from exaggeration or misrepresentation,—not necessarily intentional, yet none the less unreliable—in support of their view of the position. In this connection the *Toronto World* is referred to in another paragraph. The following is from the *Nelson Miner*: "Another large mine has closed down, that of the Dominion Copper Company, of Phoenix. It is not large yet in production, being a new company, but it is one of the largest in the province in capitalization and promise, and had entered vigorously into operations. The manager assigns as a reason the eight-hour law. The suspension is for an indefinite period, and will prove most prejudicial to the business interests of Phoenix and of the Boundary country generally."

Now exception may reasonably be taken to several of these statements. First the Brooklyn, the mine closed down by the Dominion Copper Co., and which employed only 35 men, cannot fairly be classed as a "large mine," and next it is surely a gross exaggeration to make it appear that the discharge of 35 men will prove "most prejudicial to the business interests of the Boundary country generally." The suspension of work in any mine employing even a smaller number of men than at the Brooklyn is to be deplored, but the Boundary district residents as a whole will probably resent the implied suggestion that the comparatively unimportant incident referred to by our contemporary is likely to seriously affect business in their large and important district. Mines of more present consequence, situated in the immediate vicinity of the Brooklyn and operating on a much larger scale, continue working and are likely to do so. What is most needed in this regard is a fair statement of facts; misrepresentation will not in the long run serve the least interests of either mine owners or men.

The Similkameen country has lately received much notice in the Coast press and interested parties have not been slow to take advantage of this readiness to give publicity to the district. Newspapers published in the interior are also assisting in booming this El Dorado. The *Greenwood Times* recently gave prominence to the opinions of a precocious youth known locally as "Charley the Trader" who, though without the requisite experience either theoretical or practical to make his opinions of any value at all, with characteristic "cheek," said: "From a careful examination of the Similkameen district I came to the conclusion that the evidences of mineral wealth are fully equal to any other section of the province." Then as a further proof of the value, or valuelessness rather, of this testimony the *Times* states that its informant during his three weeks' visit to the Similkameen travelled 550 miles "on the hurricane deck of a cayuse." It did

not mention though in its notice of this trip that this enterprising young man has shares in a Similkameen mining venture and town lots to sell, hence perhaps his enthusiasm. Next the *Grand Forks Miner* is the medium through which "Crazy" Brown occasionally gives the public the benefit of his opinions of the Sunset claim on Copper Mountain, which, for the time, has quite eclipsed Brown's former mania, the Volcanic, on the North Fork of Kettle River. Then the *Rossland Miner* finds another "hurricane deck of a cayuse" man—this one travelled only 400 miles in four weeks—who unloads upon the public the burden of his experiences all through which appear those entertaining storytellers "Volcanic" Brown and Robert Stevenson. The Similkameen may be and probably is rich in mineral resources but the development of these will not be greatly aided by the publication of such matter as is here noticed. What mining men of experience and means require is simple and thoroughly reliable facts. The publication of these, if any be obtainable, will be of real service to the district, but fairy tales and camp fire yarns will seldom do it much good.

The report of the Cariboo Camp McKinney is an exceedingly satisfactory document. During 1889 this mine produced \$675,000 worth of gold, paid dividends of one per cent. per month regularly, and opened up reserves of ore for three years sufficient to keep a battery of 40 stamps in operation instead of 20 as at present. The company lately purchased the remaining one-quarter of the Okanagan claim and has extended its drifts into this ground. The vein continues strong and its contents very rich. The Cariboo mine has been opened for 1,000 feet horizontally. The whole contents of the vein, which of course has varied in thickness, have averaged 18 dwt. in gold per short ton. The Cariboo group may justly be considered the greatest gold mine in British Columbia. The remarkable uniformity of value and great extent to which the vein is workable render it an unique investment. A curious thing about this mine is that its latent richness would never have been discovered had it not been for a blowout of rich ore on the surface near the site of the present shaft. If we are not mistaken this is the only spot in Camp McKinney where really rich ore has come to the surface. But it looks very much now as if the veins which traverse the mineral belt would all be worked through their entire length. There is nothing to prevent ore of the character found in Camp McKinney being worked at a minimum of cost. It should make one of the greatest and most prosperous camps in British Columbia. If the temporary inactivity in gold-copper mining does something to divert attention to the resources of this district it will have had advantages as well as drawbacks.

It is a very extraordinary thing that neither the Provincial nor the Dominion Government have taken the necessary steps to determine the latitude and longitude of any of the principal centres of trade or industry in this province, except in the cases of Revelstoke and New Westminster. Such a strange omission has already caused much confusion and inconvenience to surveyors and others and it is therefore to be hoped that now the question has been brought up, the importance and necessity of moving in the matter will be at once recognized.

We have received a copy of the prospectus of the