There is a great danger of this sort of thing being attempted over and over again. It was so in California—it will be here, and innocent investors, unless they are very careful, will be taken in. We, therefore, sound a note of warning at the outset.

Our judges may be relied upon to protect investors against actual fraud and to punish the guilty parties, but unscrupulous promoters are generally wily enough to keep within the letter of the law, and yet manage to mislead the unsuspecting investor. No man should invest in a mining company without first probing thoroughly the nature and value of what he is asked to invest in. He should also make dilligent enquiry as to the character and standing of the men who are to manage the concern, and, last but not least, he should know the amount of money actually invested in the company by its principal promoters, the amount in stock or otherwise to be paid as promotion fees, and the commission allowed for floating the stock.

These are all important points, and if the enquiries show a satisfactory state of affairs there is not much risk in making the investment. Our remarks do not, however, apply to gambling in mining shares on the Stock Exchange, which is quite a different affair, and cannot be regulated by any rule other than that of "getting on the inside track."

We have made these remarks regarding mining companies because with the beginning of the present year the MINING RECORD intends to give particular attention to the sifting of facts connected with the formation of new incorporations. The position of those already incorporated will also be investigated, and the facts, so far as they can be obtained, will be given from time to time. With the February number this work will become a prominent feature of the RECORD so that we may be able to warn the unwary, and, at the same time, assist legitimate enterprises.

Professor Carlyle, the Provincial mineralogist, arrived from the East a couple of weeks ago, and the day following his arrival he went to work to set his department in order, and prepare for the labors before him. It speaks well for the man that he should have lost no time in getting into harness.

The Minister of Mines is to be congratulated on the steps he is taking to give impetus to our mining industries, and the Provincial Government is to be commended for the activity being shown in the building of roads throughout our mining districts.

But the Government should continue, and, if possible, increase this activity. Every available dollar in the Provincial treasury should be expended in the opening up of our mining districts. Of course, there are many demands in the way of expenditure made on the Government, but we think it will be wise policy on its part to cut down expenses in other directions so as to allow as much money as possible to be expended in the development of our mines. We think the Province generally will approve of such a course, because of the active and successful development of our mining industries means increased activity in all branches of trade, manufacture and farming throughout the whole country.

Word comes from the mining districts of numerous cases of claims being jumped. We are certainly not disposed to look favorably upon claim jumping, but it must be remembered that laws have been framed which require certain conditions to be fulfilled by the claimant and, if he neglects to obey the law, he runs the risk of being made to suffer.

The man, however, who deliberately takes advantage of any little technicality in the law to jump a claim and thus deprive another of the well earned fruits of toil and hardship is hardly worthy of the name of man. But if a claimant neglects to do the assessment work required by the act he cannot complain if another steps in to do it.

It is necessary that the conditions regarding assessment work should be rigidly enforced, otherwise we would have the whole country staked off and development at a standstill. No claimant need fear that the Government will allow an undue advantage to be taken of him if he shows a desire to fulfil the conditions imposed upon him, which it is generally admitted are of a most liberal character.

In cases where mineral claims are taken up on land belonging to private individuals, it is absolutely necessary in common justice that a bond should be given protecting the owner from loss by damages to his property. If the claimant neglects to give such a bond he should certainly not be allowed to hold his claim.

We think, however, that claim holders should be protected in some way against jumpers who put them to legal expense without just cause, because many a poor man will allow his claim to go when jumped because he has not the necessary money to fight a legal battle. It should be made exceedingly risky for anyone to jump a claim unless he is perfectly certain that he has a good right to do so.

There is a good deal of claim jumping going on by arrangement of the parties concerned. In other words, they swap claims in order to beat the Government out of the assessment work. Like smuggling, this is not looked upon by many as a very serious offence, but all the same it is a sin against the community at large and a menace to the proper development of our mines.

It must not be forgotten that the gold commissioner has it in his power to revoke a miner's license, and even declare his mining property forfeited, if he does anything wrong in the way of claim jumping. This does