

# THE B. C. MINING EXCHANGE And Investors' Guide.

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## THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL ON FREE MINERS' LICENSES.

"The 'Placer Mining Act Further Amendment Act' was carefully drawn and if I had to draw it again I would not change a word of it. Licenses issued before the act comes into force are unquestionably good for the term for which they were taken out, and those who have taken out extra licenses in the fear that they might have lost their properties have just been contributing so much to the revenue gratuitously. There is a saving clause in the act, but even without that clause there would be no reason to fear that the licenses would have been rendered invalid. The act only applies to licenses issued after the act came into operation. This should be clear to any one who reads it over. For my own part I may say that I am holding some property on a license taken out in February last. It has not been renewed, nor will it be until the proper time, and I'd like to see someone jump my claim."

This is conclusive the Attorney-General comes out straight. Had this been known prior to 31st May the Treasury would have been out a few thousand dollars and the Free Miner have saved his shekels, as also his license twelve months from date of issue.

## THE IMPERIAL LIMITED.

This is a fit title for the new service across the continent, which the Canadian Pacific Railway are about to inaugurate, over the steel band which is undoubtedly, for speed, comfort, and courtesy, the Imperial Trans-continental Highway, binding and bringing in touch all portions of our glorious Empire, facilitating our commerce and expediting our business. The new service will average 40 miles an hour across the continent and stoppages will of necessity be curtailed. Floreat Canada.

We are glad to note that British Columbia mineral properties of assured value are at last attracting the attention of financial men of known mining repute in England and the East. "Wild catting" has produced its usual disastrous effects and for a time British Columbia has been looked upon askance. Much as we regret that dishonest and unscrupulous manipulators have enriched themselves at the expense of a too confiding public and the detriment of the Province, it must be admitted that these very questionable propositions were supported by the mining press here, as also by mining men of supposed reputation, in touch with financial institutions and individuals across the Atlantic. We happen to know these facts, and while deploring cause and effect in this connection, and admitting that dirty water becomes only the dirtier in the stirring; yet, it becomes a duty to the public to point out and expose the cause which has brought about such conditions, more especially when we know that the country has been kept back by a mercenary press, who had done their level best to blackmail and

denounce some of the most influential corporations and individuals who would have spent large sums in the development of our mineral properties. Such short sighted methods as those adopted by certain mining and financial men here in the past, in opposing certain interests for the reason that they conflicted with their own particular set, can only, as it did, meet ultimate defeat. However, every dog has his day, and these men have had theirs. If we have occasion to publish an expose of the conduct of certain individuals in connection with such mining matters and known disrepute, we shall not hesitate to do so. "Wild catting" has, however, like a thunder storm, cleared the air and we shall have better conditions prevailing.

If we cannot stand on our merits we deserve to fall. Our mineral deposits, when developed properly, worked and treated on practical lines by practical men, have conclusively proved the richness of our mineral deposits. Lack of capital has retarded our progress in developed mines, which, had such development been carried out, would have given a further proof of our mineral wealth.

## AS AN INVESTMENT FIELD.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING CENTRES PRESENT AND FUTURE.

The Province of British Columbia has many features to recommend it as a field for legitimate investment in mining ventures. It is possibly the best field at present offered by the known world, and especially is this true in so far as the smaller class of investors are concerned, as the country affords the man of small capital the opportunity to invest it in what may eventually prove to be capable of taking rank as one of the great mines which are to-day beginning, and only beginning, to make British Columbia known as a great mining camp.

There are numbers of discoveries of much promise in the hands of men of mining experience and good character, but they are men without capital. Here, then, lies the opportunity for the man of small capital seeking to invest where, with little risk, he may perhaps receive returns out of all proportion to the amount invested.

Men of good stamina, having say £500 to £1,000, could make no mistake in coming to this country and becoming partners with claim owners, who, willing and able to work their properties up to the stage where they can be called productive prospects, yet lack the money necessary to buy powder and supplies. The above amount of money will do a great deal when the owners are themselves capable of supplementing the cash capital by the use of their own muscle and knowledge.

All the way from the Eastern boundary of the Province to the city of Vancouver, and from Vancouver to the Alaska boundary, are new centres of mining possibilities, where capital, in a general sense,