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THE NORTH AMERICAN MINING COMPANY.

The editor of THE MINING REVIEW has received a letter from the management of the North American Mining Company, which reads as follows:

"D. B. BOGLE, Esq.,
Rossland, B. C.
"TORONTO, March 22, 1897.

"DEAR SIR—I send you under another cover copies of the Toronto Mail-Empire and the Daily Globe, published in this city, in which you will find marked references to the North American Mining Company. The heading of this sheet will show you the people who are interested in this enterprise, and enclosed we hand you one of the prospectuses of our company. We consider we have one of the strongest organizations of the kind in Canada, and as our prominent object is the purchase and sales of mining properties, and the development of mining enterprises in Canada, we thought that possibly you would not object to giving us some little notice in your paper, particularly as our agents in your district will require to do some considerable advertising. We would be glad if you would kindly give us as good a notice as you can, and send us a marked copy of your paper. This will no doubt influence very largely the amount of advertising which our agents would be disposed to do with you, but we do not ask that you give us the notice for this reason, but because we believe we have one of the best organizations of the kind which has yet been before the public. The men are all gentlemen of wealth and position in their varied spheres, who have made a success of their own private enterprises and are largely interested already in mining in various parts of the world.

"Thanking you in advance for the notice which we ask."

It so happens that some of the directors of this company, and particularly those in active management of its affairs, are personal friends of the editor's, and likely, so far as he knows, to conduct its affairs honestly and capably. And there is no reason why the company should not be a good investment. But why the management should go out of its way to deliberately insult THE MINING REVIEW it is not easy to guess. The reading columns of this paper are not dictated by the business management. These columns are small and few, neither so long nor so many as those of the Mail-Empire or the Globe. But such as they are they are written without fear or favor. It will be in order for the Mail-Empire and Globe to explain the notices in view of their responsibility to their readers.

VEIN WALLS.

The ores which carry the valuable metals have been supposed to occur mainly in fissures, cleaving the rocks in diverse directions, and the noblest type of vein has been deemed that which cut across the country independent of its structure, whether evidenced as bedding, foliation or cleavage, and which was identified with rents produced in the rocky crust of the earth. As so conceived, the vein was a fissure

filled with ore, extending through the country for a varying distance, and continued downward to a depth more or less proportionate to its longitudinal extent. The vein-material was bounded by an encasement of rock, and those immediate surfaces which limited it on either side were called "walls." These primary conceptions have become modified by the experience of modern mining in widely separated regions. The study of lode-formation has led to the recognition of notable departures from the supposed normal structure of the veins of Saxony and Cornwall, the homes of early economic geology.

Typically the walls of a vein are conceived as parallel rock-planes enclosing the ore, the upper one being called the hanging and the lower one the foot-wall. Walls are rarely alike. Even where a vein traverses a homogeneous formation, such as a massive crystalline rock, it is usually found that the surface which bounds it underneath differs from that which limits it overhead. This is to be ascribed to the effect of the agencies which brought about the deposition of the ore. The action of underground waters tends at first to affect both equally; but in many cases probably the solutions, as they slowly ascend along the line of fissuring, are prevented from penetrating into the encasing rock by the occurrence of an impermeable covering of clay, due to abrasion, which may line either wall, but, because of gravity, generally accompanies the under one. Similarly we are justified in supposing that the deposition of a mineral deposit may form a coating which would serve to protect the foot-wall from the corroding effects of chemical action. The activity of the mineral-bearing current thus becomes diverted in its greatest intensity toward the upper wall, where the decomposition of the rock-surface may be followed by its disintegration so as to cause the exposure of fresh faces for further dissolution.

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