

British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Devoted to the Interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

SATURDAY,.....OCT. 23, 1897.

Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining, mining machinery, mining laws, and matters relating to the mineralogical development of Canada, are always welcome.

Manufacturers and Dealers in appliances used in and about mines are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.

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A MODEST REFORM.

It is satisfactory to note that although the Hon. J. H. Turner cannot see his way clear, as head of the Provincial administration, to promise abolition of the license tax on precious metal mining companies, he has at last concluded that it is inadvisable—save in the case of miners locating and holding claims, on whom the impost may still with reason be levied—to continue the tax of \$5, now imposed as a license fee on every working miner. The miner working for wages and not seeking claim ownership usually pays, directly and indirectly, quite enough taxation out of money often earned under the hardest of conditions, without being subjected, in respect of his right to live in B. C. by working at his craft, to a special levy from which other and usually better situated industrialists are exempt.

Anticipation of the coming general election campaign and a popular demand then likely to be raised, has doubtless not a little to do with the Premier's acquiescence in a proposed reform, previously neglected by the Provincial Government, though often pressed. But whatever the main motive for the Premier's change of front, it must, of itself, be regarded as satisfactory. Nor will the abolition of the license due

in the case of the ordinary working miner, lose the Provincial treasury any very great or indispensable amount, though it will relieve many individual cases of hardship. Large numbers of miners, anxious to locate claims, will continue to take out and pay for the special license fee, so that, allowance being also made for the present cost of collection of an obnoxious levy, the Provincial Government will very likely not find the revenue from miners' licenses lessened by more than about \$20,000.

Meanwhile mine revenue receipts in the form of fees, royalties and other incidental taxation will continue for some and probably many years to increase by leaps and bounds, as the result of the continuous development of what is now the greatest industry of British Columbia.

C. P. R. POLICY.

Sir Wm. Van Horne has, as President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., declared very frankly and emphatically the general policy of his Company in relation to Vancouver and its varied interests. On one point his declaration will satisfy every Vancouverian, in that it assures the City that the C. P. R. will next spring establish, with Vancouver as its Western Pacific starting point, absolutely the best combined steamship and railroad service to the Yukon country, which will, as already stated, most probably be entered via the Stickeen River, then along an intermediate rail route between Glenora and Teslin Lake and thence by well-appointed steamers on that Lake and the Yukon River. In other respects Sir Wm. Van Horne's declarations are more open to difference of opinion, but they have the merit of exceptional frankness, and thus "clear the air" of all mystery. It is learnt from these declarations that, as already shrewdly suspected by the well-informed and observant, the C. P. R. holds that the Robson, Penticton, Boundary Creek and Similkameen route between South Kootenay and Hope on the Fraser River, all lies distinctly within what may, speaking in the Company's parlance, be described as

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