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## MINES AND MINING.

### British Columbia as a Field for Investment—Peculiarities of the Mining Business. Opportunities of the West—Popular Attention Being Attracted to its Development.

[Written and copyrighted by W. H. Lynch for the Mining Manual.]

One or two propositions are in order, by way of introduction. First, the present is a time opportune for mining investment generally. In support of this proposition are the following facts:—(a) Mining is carried on—more than at any time in the past—on a legitimate basis. There is an almost entire absence of the wild cat and fraudulent features that were admittedly prominent in the industry in the past. (b) Mining methods have improved, and mining operations are carried on more intelligently, successfully and profitably than ever before. From the beginning to the end, from the diamond prospecting drill to the use of electricity in the refining of ores, the improvement and advance that characterizes the age is felt in all phases of mining. (c) Although the fraudulent practices of a former time are a thing of the past, the popular reaction against mining investment, due to such practices, has not passed away. As a result, mining investments are discounted undeservedly, and the actual effect is to put a real premium on such investments, because of the effect upon the relative supply and demand. (d) Mining is a more profitable business, to-day, than it has ever been before, a result consequent upon the facts just set forth.

The second proposition is this, that legitimate mining is as profitable a business as any business known, and far more profitable than the average business. Twelve mines in Montana paid dividends in 1889 amounting to three and three-quarter million dollars. Thirteen companies in the same state paid $319,000 net in the month of June of this year. The Granite Mountain mine pays regularly in dividends $100,000 per month. Nor is it exceptional for mines to pay large profits. The mines in the newer district of Cœur d'Alene, Idaho, are making such profits as would be exceptional in any other line of industry. Even in our own midst, in Eastern Canada, mining where successful at all, is more profitable than other business ventures.

My third proposition is that mining investments to-day carry no more risk of loss than do ordinary business ventures. Indeed, where mining is carried on, as every business should be, by men who understand it, it seems to be less of a risk than almost any other. Certainly there are many western mining fields where the record in this regard is exceptional. In the Cœur d'Alene mining district, for instance, it is a matter of current report that there is yet to be recorded a failure in any of the mines being worked there. This view, of course, is not consonant with the popular idea of mining, as it exists in some places, but if any other view is based upon actual experience it is an experience such as is not known to-day where mining is carried on at its best, or such mining as this article has to do with.

To support the foregoing propositions by elaborate argument would require space for an article by itself, and must be left for treatment later It is enough for any thoughtful investor to know, however, that they are propositions which are fully believed in by the mining men of the West, where mining forms so large a part of business life of the country.

Granted that mining offers a promising field for the investment of capital, let us enquire where is the most inviting field for immediate investment?

There are reasons to believe that the West offers an opportunity second to none, at the present time, and under existing conditions. Some of the conditions that are advantageous to the investor, in western mining, to-day, are the following:

First, the fact that mining operations are general, that it is a regular business of the country, carried on intelligently, and, as has been already noted, successfully. The advantages in this condition are many, and most important, more and greater than can be shown in limited space. The manufacturer of boots and shoes in Montreal, or Lynn, Mass., has an immense advantage over a manufacturer who is alone and isolated in some small town. This fact most imperfectly illustrates the disadvantages connected with mining operations where mining is little known and less understood, and where it is mostly pioneer work. Not only is pioneer mining of that sort likely to be amateur mining, but it is doubtless true that most of the old-time wild-cat speculation and fraud might be included under the amateur phases of mining.

Secondly, is the fact that there is in the west so large a field for operation, or for choice of investment. The extent of the western mining field, the extent of present operations, and the possibilities for future expansion would be simply a revelation to one whose ideas of mining are confined to local and eastern experience—and there are many such. A western city daily newspaper, in its New Year's addition, writes up no less than fifteen different mining districts (including double that number of different mining camps), all of which it claims to be within reach of, for business purposes. Whether that particular city's claims are well or ill-founded, I think I am safe in saying that not one of the fifteen districts mentioned is unimportant, while there are districts included of no less consequence than the well known Cœur D'Alene district (Idaho), the now famous Kootenay, of British Columbia, and another second, if to any, only to the Kootenay—or the Okanagan, lying partly in the State of Washington and partly in British Columbia.

Seven states in this western mining field produce annually about $60,000,000 in silver alone, or over twenty times the value of the production of all the metallic minerals of all Canada, from coast to coast. And this district is no less remarkable in its promise of future development. Idaho and Washington, especially, seem only to have started in the race.

The third condition favorable to the investor is the fact that the supply of mining properties is so far greater than the demand; thus making it possible for properties to be offered at less than their intrinsic value. In some of these mining states, especially the new ones, Idaho, Washington and Montana, there are many inviting lines of investment other than that of mining. Altogether, there is such a call for the available capital that the latter is at a high premium. What more need be said than to state the fact, that up to the present in the State of Washington the regular bank rate of interest, with the very best security, has been from 12 to 15 per cent. That it has lasted so long is because the country has continued to develop and open up uses for capital faster than capital has flowed in. Such a state of things will not last long, perhaps, but while it does last it certainly is capital's opportunity. Men owning undeveloped mining properties usually have partial interests, and several of them without any capital with which to develop them. It thus happens that there are ten properties on the market to one buyer who is prepared to take them. This is true of many properties which, if located in the East and possessing the same possibilities, would have ten buyers to every property. This law of supply and demand determining values, it is easy to understand how different would be prices, as compared to values, when there are ten properties for each buyer, from what they would be if the conditions were reversed, and there were, as is oftener the case in the East in connection with good properties, ten buyers for each available property.

The fourth condition is the fact that the western mining field to-day is the place of opportunity to the investor. In the humble opinion of the writer, this field, to-day presents the very focus of opportunity. The favorable conditions which we have just noticed have not always existed, contemporaneously, as a whole; they have been in process of forming. Nor will they always continue to exist. After the tide is full the water again recedes. When the pendulum stops swinging, it is at the lowest point; not at either extreme. So it is in the business world, high-water mark, or the outer reach of the pendulum are not periods of time, but points, not stays, but turns.

What is the high-water mark of opportunity? In this world of competition it is the time when all conditions are most favorable and when the fewest competitors realize that they are favorable. Opportunity does not come in the beaten track of the crowd; it comes in the new channels that pioneers make or find. The crowd are imitators; only the few think and act for themselves. When success comes to the smaller number, then does the multitude make a rush; and then the competition of numbers lessens the opportunity, so that the large number find themselves in the ebb tide of re-action, and find the prizes all carried off by others. In the humble opinion of the writer it is now near, or at, the high tide of opportunity in the western mining field. If the favorable conditions which make the opportunity are not yet at a focus, they are coming to it with extraordinary rapidity. One needs only to have knowledge of the change that has come about in the very centre of the mining district in question, in the attitude of men towards mining ventures, to make for the belief that the tide is near high-water mark. In a certain part of that field, with which I am familiar, I have been able to observe a change that is most remarkable in the last year or two in the attitude of the general public towards this business. It is surely within the mark to say that where, three years ago, one out of five could by any reasonable effort be interested in the matter, four out of five to-day are asking themselves or others how they may best take advantage of a now recognised great opportunity. And, as was to be expected, this interest has been growing in an ever increasing ratio. One year has seen more change than had three or even five years before. It is even expected that the coming six months will see an intensifying of the mining interest that will have the character of a veritable 'boom.' A correspondent wrote me a few days ago that "men who would not talk of mining a few months ago are now getting very anxious." Another correspondent, in a letter just received, writes me: "Men are coming in here from all parts of the world and are interesting themselves in mining matters, and one does not have to argue the matter here now as we did, and as we have to do in the East." While a "boom" is not to be desired in connection with any interest, it is, when it comes, an indication of the outward swing of the pendulum; and the backward swing—the reaction—is inevitable. It is in the boom that the crowd, not the "opportunity" will be found—the opportunity precedes the boom.

Now, the argument in the foregoing holds good in all essential respects—for the purpose of this article—in an application to the British Columbia mining field. Any necessary qualifications will follow, and they are likely to be favorable, rather than otherwise, to British Columbia.

In the further study of this question, the following points are worthy of close attention:

First, the extraordinary development in western mining, which we have just noticed has taken place in a mineral belt, which extends northwestwards into Canada, and in Canada is equal in extent to the southern portion. Dr. Dawson says we have between 1,200 and 1,300 miles of this belt, or "almost precisely equal to the whole length of the same region included in the United States, from our southern line to the borders of Mexico."

Second, the Canadian portion of the great western mineral belt is not less rich, but is probably richer than that portion within the United States, Dr. Dawson speaking of the Canadian portion of this belt as as "the most metalliferous belt of the continent." Again, Dr. Dawson says: "After having enjoyed exceptional opportunities of investigation, I feel no hesitation in recording my belief that the northern moiety of the Cordilleras will ultimately prove to be susceptible to a development, corresponding in importance to that which has already been attained in the southern."

What Dr. Dawson has had to say in connection with this belt, in his published reports, especially regarding that portion latest discovered, and now attracting world-wide attention—the Kootenay region—has been so strikingly corroborated by events subsequent to his statements that his views may justly be considered highest authority.

There is one portion, at least, of this northern moiety of the western mineral belt which is almost certainly richer than anything yet exploited in the southern portion. It is, of course, the Kootenay lake district. The following observations must impress one with a belief in this fact.

First. The opening up of this district by American mining men.

Immediately south of the boundary line is a field spreading across three states, which has been the scene of a remarkable mineral development in recent years. It is believed by these mining men on the spot, that this field possesses undeveloped mineral resources greater than were the resources of the older and more developed mining fields further south. And it is believed, too, that the development needs of this field call for more men and capital than are available. This being so, there must be something tempting in any outside field to draw men and capital to it, away from the opportunity at their very doors. If that outside field should be British Columbia, there were additional reasons for these American miners not entering it. First, there has existed among United States western mining men a prejudice against British Columbia, or Canada, or a general impression that all mines in Canada are on the wrong side of the line. It has been current opinion that mining in Canada was not well encouraged and would be slow at best; and that an American, especially, would not have "fair play," or justice. This really unfounded feeling was intensified by the Sproule murder. If this feeling has been considerably dissipated, lately, it is due to the effect of the discoveries and occupation by Americans themselves of the rich field which was the very scene of that unfortunate incident, or the rich portion of the belt of which we are now speaking, the "Kootenay." Secondly, the British Columbia mining field was less accessible for development than was their own home field. All was pioneer work, even railways and other transportation facilities had yet to be provided. Note, as a matter of fact, what the pioneer company in Kootenay mining had to do: A mountain wagon road, thirty-five miles long (In Idaho) cost 15 to 20 thousand dollars, steamer for a hundred miles navigation of a small river, open only in summer, then pioneer work in mine development, and practically no market for the years of necessary waiting for railway facilities, and, now that railways are coming, the building of immense smelting and refining works. This was the sort of enterprise which left the home field and plunged into the recesses of B.C. mountains. The early expected incoming of three or four transcontinental railways, and the demand for a smelter on the spot, are the best indication of the good judgment of the enterprising pioneers. Lastly, in connection with the mining of silver-lead ores in Canada, is the fact of the small market for lead in Canada, and the high import duties in the States on lead. This fact places a premium on American mines, as compared with mines in Canada.

Second. The second proof of the richness of this field is the high and wide reputation that the district has already attained, and the comparatively rapid opening up of the mining camps. So long as two years ago, an impression began to be common among mining men south, that the Kootenay was unusually rich in promise. Mining men south of the line might and did differ in opinion as to the relative richness of different districts in their own field, but, as to the Kootenay, there has been a general consensus of opinion that it was extraordinarily rich. This was true, even a year or two ago; and since the encouraging results of the past summer's development in the older camp of Hot Springs, and the finding of new fields of equal promise, that impression has grown into a conviction. It is now expected in Washington that there will be nothing short of a "boom" in Kootenay in the coming spring. A correspondent estimates upwards of ten thousand people are expecting to go across the line next summer. Says the Spokane Review of December 22d: "The advent of the first warm days of spring will be the signal of such a rush of prospectors and capitalists as the Northwest never before beheld. The greatest rush will probably be in the Slocan country (Kootenay), which has all the elements of a boomlet; but the objective point of the first rush, is really a secondary matter, since the result will certainly be to fill all the rich camps with an overflow of energy and capital." Space will not allow the numerous quotations available and that are necessary to enable one, at so great a distance, to realize the interest with which the western mining world is awaiting the melting of snows on the Kootenay mountains especially, but also in a dozen mining fields of lesser note in British Columbia, Washington, Idaho and Montana. It is a significant fact, however, that many men are staying, and others are gathering daily, all waiting for the coming of spring, intending then to rush across the line, so that reference now to the coming "stampede," or "boom," is beginning to be merely incidental, reference being now generally made to it as a matter of common expectation.

The reputation that the Kootenay district always has sustained is well indicated, too, by the high value that has been generally placed upon prospects there, and the prices at which they have actually sold, even before the district had been made as accessible as it is. It is not an unusual thing to hear a western mining man, when referring to the Kootenay, make a remark like the following: "What big prices they put on the properties." Yet it is not unusual for mining men to say regarding some of these same properties, for instance, one held for ten thousand dollars, "If I had that property in Montana, I could get $30,000 for it."

This seems paradoxical, but it is easily understood when one remembers the two facts that the fine showings in Kootenay suggest a value far beyond the value of the average mining prospect elsewhere, while the fact of that fine showing being a silver-lead proposition, with high duties between it and the nearest important lead market to this, combined with more or less prejudice on the part of the American investor against mining in Canada, depreciates its value. So it is that while the intrinsic value of Kootenay properties is thus depreciated, they are rich enough in mineral to make them sell above the average price of mining "prospects."

Third. Another proof of the richness of the Kootenay district is the result of the development work of the past summer, and especially at Hot Springs. It has been admitted often, from the first, that the surface showings of Hot Springs were the most promising ever seen. If development should demonstrate depth, the camp must simply needs be phenomenal. Considerable depth has now been attained, in one case 200 feet, and the writer has yet to learn of a disappointment.

This camp, again, has made a record, in one other respect, which also may be considered phenomenal, in the number of "prospects" that have been worked at a profit during the development stage.

It is not unusual in the establishment of a newspaper for the owner to expend a small fortune on it before its publication becomes profitable. It is even less unusual for a fortune to be expended on a mining prospect before it becomes a paying mine. It has generally been considered a rare instance where a mining prospect does not require a heavy expenditure of capital to develop it into a mine. Even in mining camps where there are fully developed mines in full working, and where all the conditions obtain which are usually essential to profitable mining, is is not expected by experienced miners that mines will be made out of prospects without a heavy outlay of capital for purely "development" work. Much less would mining men expect to see in any one camp or district, even an old and established one, any considerable number of "prospects" being worked to a profit before any large outlay of capital in development work, or before the properties would be considered "mines." But this result is precisely what has been realized in the comparatively new camps of Kootenay. While yet these camps are new, though camp supplies were brought at heavy cost; while transportation facilities were lacking, and when only selected ore and high-grade would stand shipment to the distant works for treatment, even under such unfavorable conditions, not one but a number of "prospects" paid their cost and expenses from the "grass roots," or from the very start! Indeed, among the properties which were worked at all, and from which any effect was made to ship ore, the claims which did not pay from the start were the exception!

In Hot Springs camp, for instance, there comes to one's mind the names of a dozen "claims," none of which have had enough work done on them to have made a mine in the average mining camp, but which practically owe nothing to-day to their owners. We may mention the Skyline, the Number One, the United, the Krao, the Little Donald, the Neosho, and the Tenderfoot, as being of this class, while almost every new effort at development promises to add one to the number.

When referring to such really phenomenal results, the local mining journal reasonably draws the following logical conclusion:—"If these results could be obtained under the many disadvantages incident to carrying on mining operations in an inaccessible district, what will the mines do when all these conditions shall be favorable?"

Third—we have now noted not only that the great western mineral belt extends into Canada, but that it also appears to be even richer than the southern portion. We shall nowsee that this rich mineral field is probably on the eve of early, rapid, and probably extraordinary development. I am glad again to refer to Dr. Dawson's remarks about this field. What he had to say in this connection was prospective; but in a view of what has since been realized, his words have actually been prophetic.

"In the southern district of the Canadian belt, we have every reason to believe that we are on the point of witnessing the inauguration of an era of mining activity of a most important kind.

"There is every reason to believe that before many years elapse the province will take its place as one of the great silver producing regions of the world."

In another place he says:—"Within the past three years numerous discoveries of valuable ores have occurred in the West Kootenay district, and this district appears likely to be the first in which metalliferous mining on an extensive scale will be initiated in the province of British Columbia.

"It comprises the southern portions of the Selkirk and Columbia, of Gold ranges."

It is a significant fact that Dr. Dawson should speak of this as the "first" initiation of mining on an extensive scale, when, by the building of the Canadian Pacific railway, a vast mineral region had been fully opened up, while this new region was, at the time of his writing, utterly inaccessible by rail, and there was no knowledge of any road contemplating the opening up of the country.

Doubtless, Dr. Dawson's anticipations were based upon his knowledge of the fact, not to others as apparent then as now, that because of its exceptional richness it could not help being developed at an early day in the mineral development movement which was and is now rapidly trending northward.

The statistics of the development of the American portion of the western mineral belt clearly show this northward trend of development, and are the strongest possible support of the faith of Dr. Dawson as a scientist, and of that of the few mining men who went early into the field as investors.

Let us look at these statistics of the output of silver in the seven principal producing states from 1881 to 1888, inclusive. In the first column will be seen each state's percentage of the whole production for the year 1881. The second column gives the same percentage for the year 1888. Column A gives the percentage of increase in the production of each state, from 1881 to 1888, and column B gives the percentage of decrease of the same:

| 1. 1881. | 2. 1888. | States. | A. | B. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 5 | Arizona | .... | .... |
| 72 | 3 | California | 87 | .... |
| 40 | 33 | Colorado | 107 | 00 |
| 3 | 5 | Idaho | 103 | .... |
| 6 | 30 | Montana | 546 | .... |
| 16 | 12 | Nevada | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 12 | Utah | 9 | .... |

The increase in the production of silver of the whole of these seven states was 38 per cent., or from 41 to 57 million dollars. It will be noticed by the foregoing table that the states which produced the largest proportion of the whole output in 1881, produced a much less percentage of the whole in 1888 (see columns 1 and 2). These states were Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and Utah. It will be noticed, too, that some of the other states take higher rank; notably Montana, which from producing only 6 per cent. in 1881, rises to 30 per cent. in 1888. Idaho comes next in order of progressive merit, and if we could have the statistics up to date, we would find that Idaho is advancing close on the heels of Montana, and that even Washington (which, in 1888, had not yet arrived at the dignity of a position in these mining statistics), is advancing close upon Montana. Columns A and B make an equally striking showing. Nevada had the very same output in 1888 that she did in 1881, Utah only 9 per cent. increase, and Arizona actually decreased her output 60 per cent.

We learn several important truths from these statistics. One truth which would be strikingly corroborated by observation in the field itself, is the fact that development in silver mining is moving northward with extraordinary rapidity, and that the states which are prospectively great as silver producers, are the ones, in the northern part of the portion of the mineral belt, which is in the United States, or those states nearest to Canada. These states were not great mineral producers in the past, simply because development had not begun. Development work has now begun, and they give promise of becoming greater producers than those which were hitherto pre-eminent.

The trend of this development is northward, and there is now abundant evidence that its march will no longer be checked at the "boundary line." Of course, the mines on the Canadian side suffer some disabilities, such as the smaller home market and foreign tariffs, but exceptional richness of mines will make full compensation for disabilities. As Dr. Dawson remarked to the writer: "Hundred ounce ore is independent of prices of lead," and we have large bodies of concentrating ore (galena, or silver-lead ore). Though it takes several tons to make a hundred ounces, the field is still proof against existing disabilities.

I have spoken only of silver-mining, not because it is the only kind there, but because it is mining at its best; and so it is illustrative of my purpose. There are few precious minerals that are not in British Columbia inviting the investor; but at the present moment silver mining has especial prominence and must attract the best attention. It is the *piece de resistance*. In this line of mining operations at present the most favorable conditions come to a focus; here is the "opportunity" of the hour, although it may be said truly that the time is already ripe for other mining, notably of gold and copper.

Let us now enquire what forms of mining investments in British Columbia are likely to be the most profitable.

They will take the form of mining of which we have been treating—vein mining. Placer mining hitherto has occupied first place in British Columbia, but its position relative to vein mining is rapidly changing. Unquestionably, vein mining, when once fairly developed, will distance placer mining, and not unlikely leave it out of sight. The gold output of British Columbia dates from before 1860, and amounts to upwards of $60,000,000. The highest point was reached about the year 1864, with a product of nearly four millions. Since 1882 it has been less than one million annually, in 1890 it being only a little more than half a million. When British Columbia reaches Montana's present output its silver production will be thirty to forty times the present output of gold in British Columbia. And one need not be the most sanguine of men to anticipate this result in the next five years. If this does not open up possibilities for investments, where are they to be found? Here again the prescience of Dr. Dawson has enabled him to strike the keynote of the situation. Says he, in 1889: "Respecting silver ores in the province of British Columbia, it may be stated as the result, particularly of the developments of the past two years, that these appear likely to achieve importance even before those that are distinctly auriferous. There is every reason to believe that before many years the province will take its place as one of the greatest silver producing regions in the world, and it is possible that silver may attain and continue to hold a greater importance than gold."

The main form of mining investments will be in development work in the development of "prospects" into mines. There are various advantages in this form of investments, especially at this time. One alone is almost sufficient. An instance is related where the last of a score of reasons given for the non-appearance of a witness in court was the fact that he was dead! As that reason was quite enough, so is the best reason for investors taking up development work in British Columbia silver-mining: it is the fact that there is no choice of anything else. It being in its infancy, there are necessarily but few developed mines anyway, and these probably not in the market.

But even if this were not so, I will still advise as a matter of choice, this form of mining.

It is true that capitalists, as a rule, do not care to invest in the "development" form of mining. They prefer fully developed, either dividend-paying mines, or with enough ore "in sight" to justify the purchase and working of the property. Among the objections which they have to doing development work are the following:—

The supposed necessity for the large outlay of capital before knowing whether or not the mine will be profitable; the practice of making very heavy expenditure for purchase of properties, for expensive plant and for mine development, without the preliminary economical prospective work, and while ultimate results are still problematical, has been one of the faults that have been one of the mistakes that have brought legitimate mining into more or less dispute.

In silver-lead mining in British Columbia to-day, according to the prevailing methods, that fault is minimized. It is true that more or less capital is required there, and everywhere, for development work, but it is also true that only a moderate outlay need be made, without there being ore enough in sight to justify the further outlay of capital. Men who mine wisely, no matter what amount of capital they have behind them, work for the time on the line of what miners call "the poor man's proposition." The first outlay is made in what is really prospecting work, and prudent men confine expenditure to prospecting work till the indications of ore bodies are such as will justify any further necessary expenditure for regular mining. Vein mining in British Columbia to-day offers such possibilities that there is no excuse for the outlay and consequent risk of heavy capital. The next objection is that working undeveloped properties involves greater risks than do working mines. This is necessarily true; but the weight of the objection depends on the character of the mines, on the one hand, and that of the "prospects," on the other. It would be a far different thing, for instance, to have to develop prospects where the average chances of success are one in ten, from what it would be where the chances are four out of five. Where the chances are greater than the risks, two results are obtained; first, there is greater assurance of success, and less expenditure of capital is required before the assurance that the mining is going to be profitable.

If the past experience in the development of Kootenay "prospects" is any indication of what will be, the risk in this line will be less than usually found in fully developed mines. Reference has been made already to the phenomenal results of Kootenay development work. Among the specific instances of success is that of the "Neosho," which was worked from the beginning for the output of mineral, and its production for the first sixty days was reported as making a net profit of $6,000. The objections to the development of "prospects" are indeed more seeming than real, and the advantages of that form of investments are many. They are where there is the most choice of investments, and the least competition for available properties; in a word, it is where the present "opportunity" exists.

I have now only to offer a few suggestions to investors.

First, spread your investment over more than one property. This might not be good advice for general business; but it certainly is in mining. Indeed, it is always good advice for all investments not under the immediate control of the investor. It helps to minimize risks. In mining, it is a possible way of eliminating them; for one successful mining venture usually carries profit enough to cover one or more failures. If one's means are insufficient to cover more than one property, then join others in a syndicate, or company, and so cover larger ground.

The next suggestion is to make no mining investment as a "gamble." Do not go into mining blindly. Apply the same rules of caution to a mining investment as to any other. Mining is a legitimate business, and like all other legitimate business, has a rationale of working principles. If there are no prizes for intelligent mining operation, carried on on sound business principles, then let it alone. But there are such prizes, and, indeed, it is doubtful if there are any prizes otherwise. The larger proportion of losses in so-called mining investments in the past have been made by men who have invested blindly, as if it were a "gamble" pure and simple,—certainly very, very simple. The very attitude of investors who look upon the thing as a chance, and who take a little risk, as a "fly," invited fraud and deceit. It is to be hoped that such opportunities for unscrupulous "promoters" of wild-cat schemes are past. Do not get excited about mines. Do not pull all your available funds into any single investment, however inviting; keep some funds in reserve. Do not buy stocks to make money out of expected fluctuations, due to manipulations instead of actual mining operations. Confine such speculations to wheat gambling, or the pool room, which are quite sufficient for the evil thereof.

If disposed to profit by the industry of mining, do it by taking an intelligent part in the development of the natural resources of the country. Do not invest unthinkingly, because somebody else does it. If you are influenced by the example of some one whom you think wiser than yourself, and more likely to choose well, make sure that he is not the "stool-pigeon" of some "floated" scheme; make sure that your oracle's investment cost him something, and that his example thus has reasonable force.

See that men who "promote" mining ventures are men of good record, are responsible men, and that they themselves have something to lose—that in the event of failure they have more to lose than you have, rather than less—that they take all the risks that they ask you to take.

The writer believes that British Columbia at this moment offers a field for legitimate, profitable and safe investment, such as the world has seldom seen; and that the great "opportunity" lies in the development of rich mining "prospects" into paying mines. It is really no longer a question whether the writer is mistaken or not, or whether the field will be occupied; the only question is what men and whose capital will take a hand in it. The successful mining men of the United States already have secured, doubtless, as a prize for their intelligence, nerve and enterprise, enough ultimate wealth, doubtless, to pay the Canadian national debt. They intend to secure as much more as they can. It were well if Canadians were to occupy some of their own time and capital, in that part, at least, of the development of their own resources which is so profitable as to draw shrewd foreign investors away from a very enticing home field to them. It is a pity, at all events, that they should miss the opportunity because of any ignorance of their home possibilities, or prejudice against them.

Enthusiastic workers, like Dr. Dawson and other members of the Geological staff, enterprising journals like the Gazette, can do no more than furnish information. It lies, then, with readers and hearers whether some of this wealth comes to themselves and the locality where they live, or whether it goes to those who already have over-much wealth.

### Chili's Reply not Satisfactory.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 3:45 p.m.—A despatch from Chili was received at the Department of State, this afternoon. It is not possible at this writing to give its contents. The State and Navy departments are alive with rumors. One of these is to the effect that the dispatch states that Chili will withdraw the language in the now famous Matta dispatch as far as it applies to the United States. It is further rumored that the United States has sent a reply to Chili that her proposition is unsatisfactory. The President and members of the Cabinet decline to discuss the matter at this time.

### Papal Appointment.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The Rome correspondent of the Catholic News cables that Cardinal Lederpowski has been appointed by His Holiness, Prefect of the Congregation de Propaganda Fide, as successor of the late Cardinal Simeoni.

### Port Crescent News.

PORT CRESCENT, Jan. 26.—Work has been resumed actively on the breakwater. The severe storms and high tides did much injury during the past month to the trestle, piling and railroad tracks, which project beyond the completed work, but the valuable machinery escaped without the slightest damage, and the loss is therefore of no significance in the prosecution of the original plan.

### Convicted of Smuggling Chinamen.

ALBANY, N.Y., Jan. 26.—In the U. S. District Court, to-day, the trial of James Muldoon, the ex-newspaper man from Toronto, Canada, charged with smuggling Chinamen over the state line from Canada, was concluded. The jury was out about 25 minutes, when they returned with a verdict of guilty. Accused was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. Muldoon has served a term before for a similar offence. He attempted to escape, at Fonda, from the custody of a Marshal, while en route to this city, by jumping from the train, but was recaptured. Owing to the sickly condition of the convicted man the President was induced to pardon him.

The Zambesi case will probably come up again to-morrow. It is one in which considerable interest is centered.

## ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

### It Is Hard to Distinguish Them from the Natural.

"What an idea! Bless you, florists are bad enough, but they have not yet stooped so low as to hire out flowers for funerals." Thus spoke a dealer in fancy nosegays the other day.

"But you loan doves to undertakers sometimes?"

"Yes, and to the churches on special occasions; but loaning flowers for a funeral, why, it is simply preposterous!"

"It is said to be done every day in this city."

"Yes, there are dealers in artificial flowers who do that business, but not florists."

I visited a large artificial flower and foliage concern.

"A great many poor people," said a member of the firm, "order potted flowers and tropical plants of us for funerals. We charge ten per cent. for their use, and in many instances the flowers might better have been purchased out and out. Take our foliage bouquets, composed of begonias, coleens, geraniums and ivy—they come cheap, and it is poor economy to hire them. But people of small means like the immediate saving, and the long run is not taken into account. For church funerals we sell large quantities of chrysanthemums, roses, tiger and calla lilies, hyacinths, etc. Natural flowers are sometimes represented on the same altar, and it is impossible to tell which is which. The imitation of common flowers has been reduced to a fine art. One can hardly believe how rapidly artificial plants have sprung into favor, even among the rich. They are used in ball rooms, theaters, restaurant windows, stores and almost everywhere. We have some well-known varieties so skillfully made that they would deceive the most learned botanist at a little distance.—N. Y. Herald.

## BIRDS AS SURGEONS.

### The Intelligent Manner in Which Snipe Treat Their Wounds.

Some interesting observations relating to the surgical treatment of wounds by birds were recently brought by M. Patio before the Physical society of Geneva. He quotes the case of the snipe, which he has often observed engaged in repairing damages. With its beak and feathers it makes a very creditable dressing, applying plaster to bleeding wounds, and even securing a broken limb by means of a stout ligature. On one occasion he killed a snipe which had on the breast a large dressing composed of down taken from other parts of the body and securely fitted to the wound by the coagulated blood.

Twice he had brought home snipe with interwoven feathers strapped on to the site of the fracture of one or other limb. The most interesting example was that of a snipe both of whose legs he had unfortunately broken by a misdirected shot. He recovered the animal only on the day following, and he found that the poor bird had contrived to apply dressing and a sort of splint to both limbs. In carrying out this operation some feathers had become entangled around the beak, and not being able to use its claws to get rid of them it was almost dead from hunger when discovered. In a case recorded by M. Magnin, a snipe which was observed to fly away with a broken leg was subsequently found to have forced the fragments into a parallel position, the upper fragment reaching to the knee, and secured them by means of a strong band of feathers and moss intermingled. The observers were particularly struck by the application of a ligature of a kind of flat leafed grass wound round the limb, of a spiral form and fixed by means of a sort of glue.—Medical Record.

### A Valuable Voice.

There are heights to be reached in every profession, and it is not to be wondered at if those of his own profession are considered superior to those of any other by the enthusiastic artist. Martin, the popular French singer, found food for reflection in an experience which he had with a cab driver. The incident is related by the author of "Souvenirs d'un Chanteur:" Martin had a voice of great compass and most agreeable sound, of which he was decidedly proud. He had a weakness for drawing out compliments upon it. One day as he was being driven through the streets of Paris in a cab he saw some one passing carelessly in front of the cab and in danger of being run over. "Whoa!" he cried, in his most sonorous tones. The coachman turned around excitedly. "O! monsieur!" he cried, "what a beautiful 'whoa!' Ah! if I only had a voice like that!" "Well, what would you do if you had?" asked Martin, with a smile, believing that he had been recognized, and pleased at the idea that his reputation extended even to the drivers in the streets. "What would I do, monsieur? Faith, I should become the first coachman in Paris!"—Youth's Companion.

### Weight of the Body.

Quartelet obtained some weight records of note, but no reliance can be placed in them in the light of modern observation. He concluded from such statistics as he could get that a newborn infant was, on the average, one-twentieth the maximum weight in middle life; that during the first year after birth the increment of weight is about one-tenth of all that is added subsequently, and that between the fifteenth and twentieth years more is added to the weight than during any other five-year period of life. However, individual instances differ so widely that very little reliance can be placed in the results he obtained. That Quartelet's statistics of weight were incomplete and unsatisfactory is shown by the fact that he did not detect the interesting law recently recognized, viz., that the weight increases slowly, or even diminishes, when the height is increasing very rapidly, but increases rapidly when the height remains nearly stationary.—Detroit Free Press.

SWITZERLAND's new law sends drunkards to inebriate asylums.