

**A BAD BUSINESS.**

Speaking of some very sharp practice indulged in by American controllers of the Evening Star Mining Company of Rossland, the Rosslander says: "If anyone had premeditatedly attempted to do this camp an injury they could not have worked more effectively than did a few shareholders of the Evening Star Mining Company. It is particularly regrettable that such a transaction as its recent sale of the balance of its treasury stock to one of the shareholders at 2½ cents per share should have taken place just at this time when eastern Canadians are renewing confidence in Rossland mines. The circumstances, so far as can be learned, are these: The company, originally incorporated for \$1,000,000, had exhausted its treasury before the mine was on a paying basis. The capital stock was increased by 500,000 shares, which were placed under option with the Eastern Mining Syndicate at five cents a share, the purchasers to expend at least \$1,500 a month in developing the property, taking payment in shares, and all the 500,000 shares were to be taken by December 18th, last. This the syndicate was not ready to do. It had taken about 260,000 shares and sent \$4,500 in payment for 90,000 more on condition of getting an extension. This was not accepted, and as without holding the balance of the treasury shares D. M. and J. L. Drumheller and their friends would not hold a majority of all shares issued, a meeting of directors was hurriedly called for February 1st, while W. E. Blackmer, who represented eastern shareholders, was absent from Spokane, and H. B. Nichols, who was acting with them, was ill, and voted to accept Mr. Crowley's offer of 2½ cents a share for the balance of the stock, 240,000 shares. This leaves the company with but about \$5,000 on hand and all the treasury stock gone. The company is now at the mercy of the Drumhellers and their friends, and those who have purchased shares up to date can do nothing but take what they care to offer them. The Eastern Mining Syndicate, which comprises several men of considerable means, who might in future invest considerable money in other mines, will not care to associate themselves with persons whom they cannot trust. All mine owners may not be the same class of business men as those referred to, but all will suffer in reputation through the act of those who have control of the Evening Star. Several deals on similar lines with that under which the Eastern Syndicate went into with the Evening Star have been declared off in consequence. With fair dealing much could have been done to get more money invested in Rossland mines, but now strangers cannot do otherwise than consider themselves foolish to place themselves in any way at the mercy of the others."

To this comment of the Rosslander the MINING

CRITIC would add, that even had the original five-cent-on-the-dollar proposition been carried out, the Evening Star company would still in all probability have had quite inadequate capital. The issue of stock at five cents on the dollar on an inflated capitalization is in most cases a delusion and a snare, and too often also a ready aid to fraud.

**VENTURESOME WOMEN.**

A Mrs. Romney, of Chicago, is organizing a large party of women, which she proposes to accompany to Dawson City very shortly. They are to possess two important qualifications, it seems—respectability and a "reasonable amount of money and supplies." Mrs. Romney's ideas are large, but it is to be feared impracticable, since she hopes that the ladies of her syndicate will run boarding and lodging houses, restaurants, laundries, dry-goods shops, millinery establishments, and even engage in mining through grubstaked prospectors, all on co-operative lines. Co-operation somehow never succeeds out west, and such large and varied co-operation of a miscellaneous mass of female humanity as contemplated by Mrs. Romney, is assuredly foredoomed to failure. Encouragement of female emigration to the Klondike on the scale contemplated by her is moreover to be deprecated. The Yukon country is no place for the average unprotected female under the present conditions of its social life. Many hardy wives of western miners will doubtless, however, make Dawson their temporary home, and there is but too good reason to believe that the Yukon country will, this season, demand the kindly services of a small army of hospital nurses, who may well be kindly women. There certainly, on the other hand, won't be much scope for the making and sale of fancy millinery on the Yukon, save to a very doubtful class of female humanity, which is rapidly invading the land. Mrs. Romney writes, asking the MINING CRITIC'S sympathy for her proposal. This, however, we regret that we cannot accord. Her scheme involves for her proteges risks far too large, good as are, no doubt, Mrs. Romney's intentions.

**ALASKA'S HELL-GATE.**

Skagway may be regarded as a modern Sodom, thanks to the infernal lack of government that is allowed to prevail in the more remote districts of the United States. Many of its residents are thieves, gamblers and prostitutes. And, though spinal meningitis is carrying off in horrible pain many unfortunate people of the place, large numbers of these are doubtless of the respectable and hardworking minority, meningitis being a-disease due to cold and exposure. The Alaskan ports are, under present conditions, a disgrace to America's vaunted civilization.