

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.

THURSDAY SEPT. 30, 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.

Machinery 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.

Subscription, Two Dollars a year, payable in advance. Remittances should be made by Express, Postal Order or Bank Draft payable to the "British Columbia Mining Critic."

Advertising rates quoted on application.

British Columbia Mining Critic Co., Publishers.

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A REJOINDER FROM THE "COLONIST."

The Colonist is again angry because the MINING CRITIC strives in a small way to hinder its Yukon boom operations, by warning British investors not to invest in Clondyke companies organised in London, which in nine cases out of every ten bear about them the "mark of the beast," or at least the trail of the "shark promoter." We remain, however, convinced, although some of these companies have secured "decoy ducks or "stool pigeons," several Canadian public men. These gentlemen will or should some day regret their association with recklessly speculative Clondyke mining schemes, organised by promoters in London, who usually know nothing of the far north mine country and are only anxious to make big profits for themselves by foisting very doubtful company stock on the British public. It is a truism to state, as we did, that Western Canadian and American trading companies conversant with the trade and transport requirements of such a region as the Yukon, can do more—far better—in such a field than heterogeneous directorates of men, chiefly got together in London, and, as a rule, noted chiefly for their utter want of acquaintance with Western Canada.

We except, of course, from our criticism of British companies operating in far north Canada, such an experienced body of northern traders as the Hudson's Bay Co., which, though organised in and directed from London, has had a long and historic experience of northern regions, and can at any time make large and successful trading developments in the Yukon country. Not so is it, nor will it be, with any Clondyke trading company as yet organised in London, where it is noticeable that the most trusty financial guides in the press denounce practically all the Yukon schemes now formulated by London promoters.

It is, moreover, notorious that placer mining as conducted in the Yukon, and as distinct from work by hydraulic and other scientific methods which cannot there be used, is not a form of mining that as a rule pays a company, let the Colonist say what it will to the contrary. A company thus working placers, invariably "buys them high," works them dearly, and is almost wholly at the mercy of the working miner, whose operations can only be successfully supervised and checked by individualist effort, constantly directed on one spot. It is far better, we repeat, for British investors to look to and participate in more permanent mine ventures nearer home than in the Yukon, under infinitely better climatic and other conditions, and directed in a thoroughly business-like way. Such opportunities are more than ample in British Columbia.

The manner in which the Clondyke is being boomed, often as a part of British Columbia, bodes harm rather than good to our own mining development, though it may bring a temporary accession of trade to a not very large number of outfitters in Victoria and elsewhere.

We should of course have less to say in depreciation of the Yukon as a field for British investors were we aware of a single Clondyke company organised in London and intended in the main to be directed and worked by men who know the Yukon, and are not mere nominees of profit hunting promoters. But no such company has yet been organised.