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What We Think.

We do not mean to meddle in any way with politics, as we think that in nine cases out of ten, it is a subject best left alone to those who make it their business; but in the natural course of events, the tenth time comes round, and we have to stand on our hind legs to make a remark. In this case we refer to two recent Acts of Legislation, the Alien Bill and the Eight Hour Law. In our last issue, we alluded to the fact that the Alien Bill would cause endless trouble at Atlin, although we do not take any credit to ourselves for prophesying what must have been apparent to anyone who knew anything about the conditions of the country. In several instances, claims have been "jumped" after the original owners had put in a considerable amount of work on them, and some have even been recorded as many as sixteen times with the Gold Commissioner. The land grabber, or "hog," as he is called by some people, has been very busy, and has succeeded in corraling most of the best ground to be obtained, one man alone possessing nearly forty claims, which he is holding to sell.

It does not seem quite the fair thing to turn Americans out of the country altogether, especially after they have spent their money, and suffered all the hardships incidental of prospectors in a new country. It

is all very well to say "Canada for the Canadians," but Canadians as a rule are not miners, and they are the class of men we want just now. Not but what there are plenty of good miners in Canada, but are there really enough of them to open up British Columbia as it should be opened? Miners that come from the United States, as a rule, thoroughly understand their business, and if we cannot open up the country ourselves, it seems ridiculous to act the "dog in the manger," and keep everyone else out.

The Eight Hour law is causing no end of trouble to mine owners, and many of the smaller ones have had to close down in consequence. To bring the matter closer home it is only necessary to refer to the Glen Iron mine, which is now shut down owing to the effect of the Eight Hour law on the Nelson smelter, with which it had a large contract. Anyone who knows anything about the matter at all knows that this is absolutely correct. Mine owners who are only employing half-a-dozen men, and who are probably getting little, if any, profit out of their outlay of capital, can hardly be expected to increase their expenses and receive even less for it. Some of the people who live in cities, or have never been in a mining country, have an idea that immense fortunes are always made out of mines, and that all the fortunate owner has to do is to receive his dividends and spend the money in some foreign clime. Of course there are cases where mines yield very large profits, but on the other hand there are plenty that do not at present yield a cent, although they

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