

a scientific body, nor would he embody it in a report. It is quite enough, meanwhile, to know that Mr. Johnson and his principals have sufficient confidence in the future of the Boundary Creek district to go to the length of establishing there a large and costly smelter.

The Columbia and Western Railway is at last completed as far as Greenwood, and already preparations are being made for the consignment of ore from some of the more developed mines of the district to the Trail smelter. It is not likely, however, that the mineral production of Boundary Creek will exceed or even come up to two hundred tons of ore a week until next summer, when local smelting facilities should, by that time, be provided.

Mr. J. D. Kendall, the well-known mining engineer who was quite recently engaged in professional work in this Province, has lately been interviewed in London by the representative of a leading mining journal. Mr. Kendall then gave the following opinion, which accurately, though briefly, explains why so many London promoted and thence mismanaged British Columbia mining companies have hitherto failed to realize expectations. "I would like," he is reported as saying, "to avail myself of this opportunity of saying that the very small financial success which has hitherto attended the mining operations of British companies in Western Canada is not attributable in the smallest degree to the scarcity of mineral or to unfavourable conditions of working, but is the effect of causes which ought not to be allowed to operate, and can easily be avoided at the beginning, and often overcome at later stages, by a knowledge of the technical and commercial conditions to be dealt with."

Mr. Frank Richards, of Liverpool, Atlin, Vancouver, etc., to whose strange promotion methods the London *Critic* has referred in terms of justifiable censure, is very, very angry, not only with our London contemporary, but also with the MINING RECORD. He will not, however, take any proceedings against the *Critic*, which, after the usual wont of one lashed in its columns, he freely denounces as a "blackmailing sheet." The *Critic* can, of course, afford to laugh at comment thus occasioned.

Elsewhere is published a letter from Mr. Henry Croft, replying to a comment which appeared in last month's issue of the MINING RECORD, referring to the prospectus of the British Columbia Mining and Exploration Company, Limited, of which he is one of the organizers. It will be remembered that we called attention to two statements in this prospectus: (1) that the company's properties "are situated in some of the best mining districts of the Province—and . . . shareholders will have the benefit of being interested in different mining camps, *thereby availing themselves of the development work that is being done on a number of the adjoining mines*;" and (2nd) that "the present sale of shares to the public will be *mainly* devoted to the development of the properties." Mr. Croft in his letter explains, with a considerable show of ingenuity, the meaning it was intended should be conveyed by these statements. We can only express regret that the wording in the prospectus should

have been such as to admit of an ambiguous interpretation. The first statement suggests to the ordinary reader, speculation, not mining; the second—well, whatever construction you like to place on it. "The present sale of the shares to the public will be mainly devoted to the development of the properties;" *mainly* may mean anything from sixty to ninety-nine per cent.; and to what purpose the balance of this money is to be devoted is not mentioned in the prospectus. Too much care cannot be taken in the preparation of prospectuses, and even honest-intentioned concerns, as under which category we believe the B.C. Mining and Exploration Company may be placed, must expect criticism from the public and the press if failing in this important particular.

A correspondent residing in Chihuahua, Mexico, sends us for publication the following remarkable circular which has been issued to the victims of a concern called the Union Trust and Smelter Manufacturing Co., of St. Louis:

Chihuahua, Mexico, Julio 3 de 1899.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

❖ GENTLEMEN! ❖

You are hereby requested to personally state your own complaints to the Postmaster general regarding your dealings and transaction with Mr. H. Meinhard & Co., Treas., Promotor, Presidente manager of the Union Trust and Smelter mfg. Co. 415 Locust St Room 203. St. Louis, Mo.

May the good Lord have mercy on this execration proof confidence gentlemen and his hundreds of victims, who deeply deplore their loss of faith and money through the mail by a prospectus, which speaks of a way to become wealthy by sending \$2. to H. Meinhard & Co. this is what the St. Louis Republic said on May 25 th. with a strong hint and sound warning on May 29 th.

Prospectus which Speaks of a way to Become Wealthy.

Within the past few days a number of St. Louisans have received through the mail a prospectus of the "Union Trust Consolidated Smelter Manufacturing Company" of this city. The prospectus sets forth that the company has incorporated with a capital of \$1,750,000 and has obtained all the patents, franchises, trade and options of a dozen or more individual corporations throughout the State, of which it is now sole owner. It offers for sale stock in the new corporation at \$2 a share, and guarantees a dividend of 10 per cent per month on each share. It is further stated that "this is no lottery or green goods, but a good snap to get rich, guaranteed as good as gold in any trust company."

My clients Holt and Spears of El Paso, Texas, invested \$1750.00 with them for a fake smelting machine, while the swindled me out of \$1,300 as agent for them in Mexico, very regretfully. W. T. Brice care apartado 83 Durango, Mexico.

The London *Mining Journal* ought surely by now to know that the Atlin gold fields are neither in Alaska, nor even in the Yukon country, but within British Columbia. Yet under the heading, "Mining Men and Matters," a recent issue contained the following: "Mr. Rider Haggard has, it is stated, turned his attention from literature to the more profitable pursuit of gold mining in Alaska. In company with Lord Ernest Hamilton, he has proceeded to the Atlin gold fields. Certain claims there, according to the correspondent of the San Francisco *Chronicle* have been pur-