

which includes a full day's travel by railroad and lake steamer from Sicamous Junction on the Canadian Pacific Railroad to Penticton and a long stage ride from that point to Ollala. For this latter reason, and especially lack of time, I do not expect to visit the property now, but maintain, without fear of contradiction, that my first criticisms were perfectly justifiable and fully warranted. In the interests of legitimate mining in British Columbia I make the above statement and would repeat here my first criticisms did space permit.

Only recently I have received a communication from a quite prominent mining man in which the following sentence occurs: "A little while ago Thomas Smitharan, a very experienced miner, mine foreman, went to work for the Ollala Company as foreman and on July 21st, he wrote me 'I have thrown up my job; it was a wild cat outfit.'"

I do not wish to occupy more of your valuable space, as I consider that the foregoing fully replies to both Mr. Watson's and Mr. McDougal's communication. In fact with the exception that Mr. McDougal very adroitly inserts an advertisement in the closing paragraphs of his communication, the balance of his communication cuts no figure because any mining investor who has had reasonable experience can readily see that as a matter of fact he sets forth no claims which would justify the floatation of a company with the enormous capital to which this company has had the audacity to ask the public to subscribe.

An analysis of the statement made by Mr. McDougal shows such a condition with regard to the whole proposition that it is entirely unnecessary for the writer or any one else to visit the properties to condemn it. He fails to show any reasonable necessity for the building of a railroad for which he has a charter. He fails to show that it is a feasible engineering scheme to construct the road, he fails to show that there is at least reason to imagine there will be any business for the road if it is constructed. Penticton, the Eastern terminus, is a small village at the Southern extremity of the Okanagan Lake; the Western terminus, Princeton, is a small village on the Similkameen River which in the future may be in direct connection with a railroad from the Canadian Pacific, or possibly from the Coast or Great Northern system. The charter Mr. McDougal has, is for a short line which would connect these two points and be absolutely at the mercy of both systems of railroads referred to unless Mr. McDougal's charter was sold to one or the other of these companies.

He is frank enough to state that from the present showing it is difficult to measure up ore in sight. Of course it is, for the simple reason that there is absolutely no ore blocked out, the development work, from his own statement being of such a character that it would be impossible to estimate any given quantity of ore and it is merely conjectural whether a cross-cut tunnel he refers to will ever intersect the ore body as he hopes. As a matter of fact, cross-cut tunnelling in British Columbia has been found in very many cases to be very disappointing although such a system is advantageous to enable companies to sell stock while a tunnel is being run. In a large number of cases which have come under the writer's notice, the purchasers of such stock have had reasons to curse the men who started the tunnel and weighed them

into buying stock. Mr. McDougal also neglects a very important point which the Provincial Mineralogist, in his report has supplied, viz., the values of the ore. Mr. Robertson says in one paragraph of his report, "In this width the copper pyrites were estimated as forming about 5 per cent. of the whole, which would represent a copper assay value of about 1.5 to 2 per cent. The Manager reported that no gold or silver values of importance had been obtained, which seems to be confirmed by subsequent assays." In another place "selected samples of this material showing pronounced mineralization were taken for assay and gave 10.9 per cent copper and 1 oz. silver." Note that in this connection that this assay was from selected samples. In another place "showing a lead from 2 ft. to 2 ft. 6 in. wide, with an ore streak from four to eight inches, reported as carrying good values in gold." Another: "In a sample of the pyrrhotite taken for assay giving only trace of gold and silver and one-half per cent. copper and in a carefully taken average sample from the sides, roof and face of this tunnel, which was supposed to be in the ore body, failed to give, upon assaying, any values in gold, silver or copper, while the average sample of the ore pile on the dump gave an assay of three-quarter per cent. copper and trace of gold and silver." In another place "a picked sample of ore herein exposed was taken for assay and gave 7.7 per cent copper, \$12 in gold and 2.8 oz. in silver, per ton." Note this was a picked sample.

The smelter site, town site and water rights which Mr. McDougal claims as valuable assets owned by the company, would be such in a camp where there are ores susceptible and accessible for profitable treatment, but should not be considered such in the case of the Ollala Company, the writer maintains; because if the reports made by Mr. Watson are carefully read they show that there is very little, if any, ore of such character as would warrant even the staking out of a smelter site, town site or paying the fee for acquiring water rights.

The writer regrets having occupied so much space in this reply to Mr. Watson and Mr. McDougal, but is firmly convinced that in the interests of legitimate mining, and in the interests of the Province of British Columbia and the interests of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, that he, as the representative of that Journal, is fully justified.

WM. M. BREWER.

We agree entirely with Mr. Brewer's remarks as contained in the foregoing letters, with the sole exception of the reference to Mr. Watson and his report on the claims. Mr. Watson is quite qualified, as we have on a former occasion stated, to examine and report on mineral prospects, and his report on the Ollala Company's property is most conservatively worded. Mr. Watson, however, has, we fear, made a mistake in endeavouring to champion the company in print, as by so doing he practically endorses the company's absurd assertions as to the value of the property in order to justify the excessive capitalization. It is these exaggerations to which Mr. Brewer takes exception.