

## NECESSARY CORRECTION.

Since the editorial note in our present issue concerning the important Quinn amendment, to the Yukon railway bill was written and on the press it is learned that the amendment was not passed, but rejected. An Ottawa despatch, on which we relied, proves, therefore, to have been incorrect. Hence, unfortunately, the comments of our editorial note on the Quinn amendment prove to be inapplicable, and the bill practically remains almost as objectionable as when first pressed upon the Dominion house of commons.

## THE ROMANCE OF CRIPPLE CREEK.

The history of few mining camps present so many elements of romance as that of Cripple Creek, Colorado. In the year 1890 William S. Stratton was a poor prospector, whose sole property consisted of a pick and shovel. In April, 1890, Leslie W. Popejoy gave him a grubstake in order that he might prospect Cripple creek, then beginning to attract the attention of miners. W. S. Stratton was obliged to walk all the way from Colorado Springs and carry his pack. On the 4th of July, 1890, he located the Independence claim, which has since produced many millions in gold, and is still considered one of the richest mines in the west.

A few weeks after Stratton returned to Colorado Springs and bought Popejoy's interest for \$247, giving a note for payment. Three years later, in 1893, he read of millionaire Stratton's famous Independence mine, and started investigations, learning enough to lead him to believe that Stratton had discovered the body of ore before he had been induced to sell his interest; that Stratton had misrepresented the facts to him, and that he had been swindled in the transaction. He thereupon brought action and claimed one-half interest in the property. This case, after being in the courts for some years, has recently been settled, Mr. Stratton having paid Popejoy \$300,000 to have the action withdrawn. Mr. Stratton is now the sole owner of the Independence mine, and the principal owner of several others, including the Portland, the Gold King and the Black Diamond. The value of his interests in Cripple Creek is estimated at \$25,000,000. Less than two years ago the great fire of April 28th laid the city in ruins. Ten thousand people were penniless, and for a time were fed by the contributions of the state and her citizens. Before the ashes were cold rebuilding was begun, and upon the clunders of the old wooden town a handsome modern city of brick buildings, with a population of 20,000 inhabitants, has grown in one short year.

Mr. Stratton was recently asked by a well-known mining man (whose luck had forsaken him) if he would lend him \$15,000 for a speculation. And Mr. Stratton's reply is worth recording. He said: "I am delighted to be in a position to inclose you \$15,000. I regret circumstances have occurred which place you in the necessity for making the request. If you have luck and can well afford to return the loan, you may do so. If you have not, you may rely upon my sympathy, and you must think the loan a gift."

Men of this nature deserve to have wealth. Let the Romance of Cripple Creek give the faint-hearted prospector courage. When the development of British Columbia mineral resources takes place we shall find that nature has given the Province every material for fortunes except the means of converting the same into cash.

C. F. BOSOMWORTH

## A KLONDIKE GHOST.

In a gulch on Bonanza creek, in the very center of the richest part of the Klondike, is a claim which even the boldest of miners shrink from working. For a week or more the gravel from the prospect shaft washed out on an average of \$15 to the pan, and grew richer as the hole was deepened. Bed-rock has not been reached yet, but the claim has been abandoned, and the few men who tried to work it tell of uncanny sounds by day and of frightful scenes at night. If reports be true the ghost of a murdered miner guards the hole.

In the fall of 1896 there came to Bonanza creek a young man who gave his name as Ray Tuttle. He picked out a partner and after a little prospecting they struck a rich deposit, which bade fair to make them both wealthy. One day, while standing at the top of the shaft, the partners had a quarrel over some slight matter, and Tuttle fell or was pushed into the hole. When taken out he was dead, his neck having been broken in the fall. It was reported as an accident, and the partner went on working the claim alone. Two or three days later he was taken sick and died suddenly, raving in his last moments about "poor Tuttle's ghost."

No particular attention was paid to this as it was considered to be the fancy of a disordered brain. Shortly after the second funeral, however, the claim was taken up by new men. One of these went down into the hole, struck one blow with his pick, and then clambered out in hot haste, declaring he heard a man's voice shrieking at him. His partner tried it and had a like experience. Then other men went down and were in turn glad to come out in a hurry.

Watchers at night declare they can see the specters of two men clinched at the brink of the pit. These apparitions wrestle for a few seconds, until one of them breaks away, gives his antagonist a shove and sends him head first down the shaft. Night after night this ghostly drama is enacted so long as any attempt is made to work the claim. When it is left undisturbed there is no manifestation of a supernatural order. Other claims near by are worked right along without trouble. This is one ghost story that has thus far come out of the Klondike.—Western Mining World.

Cable Address: "CORNOVA," Vancouver.

CODES: A 1, 4th Ed., A. B. C., Moreing and Neal.

## MAHON, MCFARLAND &amp; MAHON

519 Hastings St., Vancouver, B. C. P. O. Box 749

MINES REPORTED ON AND MANAGED

Consulting Engineer:

Leslie Hill, C. E., A. M. I. C. E., M. F. Inst. M. E.