

hundreds of "poor devils" from England, who ought never to have been induced to leave a warm family fireside. Language is too weak to stigmatize strongly enough, such swindler aiding stupidity on the part of world famous newspapers.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There is a temporary feeling of discouragement making itself felt in the Slocan centers, as a result of a big migration to the Yukon of good mine workers, tempted to exchange a "certain" country for one full of hazards and uncertainties. However, even if good men leave the Slocan in large numbers, others equally good will soon come in, and in any case two-thirds of the migrants, being sensible men, even though they be temporarily deceived by generally delusive hopes of Yukon gold winning, will soon be back again in the world's best silver country.

It is hoped that there will be a good and representative gathering at the adjourned meeting on the 15th instant in Vancouver of those interested in the proposed British Columbia Chamber of Mines, as against the institution of which, though a few captious objectors have made themselves heard, there has not yet been raised a single argument of any weight or principle. Everything, of course, depends on the right working of such a Chamber by the right men—with methods open and above board, broadly beneficial, and in all respects above suspicion.

It is stated that an order in council has been passed at Ottawa authorizing Canadian customs officials at the summit of White and Chilkoot passes to redeem at face value certificates of the amount of duty deposited at Skagway or Dyea. This will enable importers to deposit the duty and get it back in full without an interruption in their journey. This arrangement is commendable, being, moreover, absolutely necessitated by Mr. Sifton's bad bungling in arranging details of the recent "give and take" agreement with the United States, under which the Minister of the Interior gave, sometimes seemingly without knowing it, a great deal more than he got in return for his country, this, however, being, as the Stickine deal has further exemplified, a prominent point of the Siftonian system.

Mr. Bostock, M. P., and his associates control the British Columbia Mining Record, which in its February issue has the following to say of the Stickine railroad agreement: "Just as we go to press the astounding (if true) news is received from Ottawa that Messrs. McKenzie and Mann, the well-known railway contractors, have been granted by the Federal Government as a bonus for constructing 150 miles of road from the Stickine river to Teslin lake no less than 3,750,000 acres of land along the projected route, together with other valuable conces-

sions. We shall have more to say on this matter next month. Meanwhile it will be interesting to notice what attempt is made to reconcile the present action of Sir Wilfred Laurier's cabinet with those fundamental principles of Liberalism where-with it is so hopelessly at variance." The editor of the Mining Record thus speaks out with commendable boldness. Will the chief owner of the paper prove equally independent in his criticism of the deal?

THE MORAL OF THE SKAGWAY SITUATION

The situation grows so alarming at Skagway and other points in Alaska, on the American borders of the Yukon country, that peaceful residents are all urging the establishment of martial law, in order to hold under large and increasing armed bands of murderous ruffians. It is sincerely to be hoped that all notorious toughs will be rigidly excluded from the Yukon country. The mounted police should be able to effect this easily enough, as also to prevent the incoming of hordes of women of the worst type. There is, indeed, no need for the Yukon's hardy population to be in the main other than a fairly respectable body of people, mostly there for genuine work. Canada has, at least, ample warning by the case of Skagway of what needs to be done, though it is noted that hitherto Dawson has been allowed to be run as a "wid' open" town full of questionable resorts, although law and order have on the whole been fairly maintained. Avenues of access to the Yukon being few, it should prove exceptionally easy for the mounted police largely to exclude the undesirable element. The latest news is to the effect that martial law is, none too soon, to be established at Skagway and Dyea by means of two strong companies of a United States regiment.

THE CROW'S NEST WORKERS' TROUBLES.

The manner in which the reasonable comfort of the men working on the Crow's Nest extension of the C. P. R. has been neglected by some of the contractors is having in England an unfavorable effect on the emigration to Canada of able-bodied manual workers. Some who thus emigrated and got work on the Crow's Nest route have written home, and their letters have been quoted in leading English papers. If their statements prove correct, some of the men have been treated like dogs and otherwise got far less than their due. It is to be hoped that the Dominion Government inquiry now instituted will be made real and searching. If the just claims of workers be not conceded, tremendous scope is given for most detrimental agitation, subversive of industrial success.