

Meanwhile, there is very little likelihood, we think, of the introduction in Canada of legislation of an anti-alien character. The remedy must be sought in another direction, and if this is found and rightly applied the problem will solve itself to the satisfaction of the most patriotically inclined son of the Dominion.

Writes Mr. Hess' financial editor in *The Critic*, of London :

"I have read a good deal of twaddle lately about a so-called British Columbia Chamber of Mines. A little light on the subject may at this juncture be healthy and useful, especially as the stupid reactionary move of the British Columbian Government in abolishing their London Agency may give undue prominence to the other project. So far as I can learn, this so-called 'British Columbia Chamber of Mines' has no connection whatever with the Government of the Province and is the pet project of a man named McTaggart, of Vancouver, who runs a weekly paper, *The British Columbia Mining Critic*, in which he continuously puffs various properties. THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING RECORD, of Victoria, a sterling production which has done and is doing much to expose humbugs, has severely criticised this man McTaggart, his paper and his Chamber of Mines scheme, over and over again."

But in some respects this criticism of the Chamber of Mines is not quite just, for while the Chamber was started on what were admittedly false lines, an effort has since been made to establish it upon a more popular and substantial footing. It is still, however, anything but a representative institution, a fact which may, perhaps, be partly attributed to the "stand-offishness" of the mining men of the up-country districts, who rather resent Coast interference under any guise. But it is not altogether improbable that Mr. Lawrance, the secretary, may yet succeed in gaining for the Chamber in due time, the recognition and support of the British Columbia mining community generally. With regard to Mr. McTaggart, to whom reference is made, there is no evidence of which we are aware to show that his motives were anything but disinterestedness in the prominent part taken by him in the organization of the Chamber of Mines, and afterwards in the gratuitous devotion of much of his time while acting as honorary secretary to that body.

The dismissal of a Mr. Thompson who acted until recently as Mining Recorder at New Denver, has created a good deal of ill-feeling against the present Government in the Slocan. Mr. Thompson seems to have been a capable official, although an anonymous writer in a local paper accuses him of discourtesy, a charge which is, however, indignantly denied in another letter, also anonymously signed. Meanwhile from information secured from the Department of Mines, we are given to understand that the Department could not recognize Mr. Thompson's official standing at all, for the simple reason that he had never been gazetted to the post of Mining Recorder at New Denver, merely receiving the appointment through Mr. Sproat, the Gold Commissioner, as that gentleman's clerk. But if Mr. Thompson had given proof of his ability to discharge the duties of this office in a satisfactory manner, the fact that his appointment had not been previously gazetted should

not have disqualified him from being regularly installed as Mining Recorder, and we have therefore either to infer that Mr. Thompson was discharged on account of incompetence or misconduct ; or that the dismissal is a flagrant instance of the working of the "spoils system," which has become so disgraceful and regrettable a feature of political life among our neighbours to the south of the International Boundary. It is not fair to Mr. Thompson that his reputation should thus suffer without good cause, and at the same time the Government cannot afford to allow the impression to gain strength that our civil service is to be disorganized to gratify political grudges or to reward party friendships, and when dismissals are made the public has a right to learn the cause.

Apropos of civil service appointments, we were much gratified to note that in a speech at a farewell banquet given in his honour at Ottawa the other day, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, feeling that his term of office as Governor-General of Canada having then expired, he could express with greater freedom his opinion with regard to Dominion public affairs, spoke feelingly upon the necessity of reform in the system upon which the Canadian Civil Service is based and suggesting the adoption of the British plan of competitive examinations and a non-political civil service on the lines advocated in THE MINING RECORD some two months ago. There is no question of prominent public interest in Canada to-day of greater importance than this.

A correspondent, a prominent mining engineer, writes to THE MINING RECORD : "You will perhaps be interested to learn that the letter which appeared in your columns signed "Anti-Boomer," seems to have had some effect. I was informed recently that two experts have examined the Waverly since the letter appeared in THE RECORD criticizing the company and its methods, and it is shrewdly suspected that this action was taken in consequence of that criticism."

A certain well-known engineer practising in the Province, has adopted a plan by which he hopes in future to check—at least in such instances as he himself is professionally concerned—the unfortunate habit too common among London promoters of ruining the prospects of an otherwise promising flotation by over-capitalization. His method is very simple and should certainly prove efficacious, providing, always, he has to deal only with honest men. When asked now to pass professionally upon any property which, it is proposed, shall subsequently figure on a prospectus, this gentleman takes the precaution to close his report with a significant statement, beginning : "The capital for this company must not exceed" such and such an amount. The question of capitalization is, it is hardly necessary to point out, one of the greatest importance, and yet investors, strangely enough, very rarely as a rule take the trouble to enquire upon what basis of calculation the capital required for new promotions is decided. Obviously no one is better qualified to form a just opinion of the extent to which a mine may be safely capitalized than a competent engineer who has had the opportunity of examining the property thoroughly, of estimating its resources, the amount of ore in sight, and of considering those other factors which would necessarily