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# THE B. C. MINING EXCHANGE AND INVESTOR'S GUIDE

## And Mining Tit-Bits.

VOL. I.—VANCOUVER, B. C., NOVEMBER, 1899—No. 11.

### THE COPPER MARKET.

WE notice a further decline in copper, but, if we can credit the market reports the world over, we can see no cause for any scare or that copper stocks should decline; nor can we see any reason for the drop in prices, unless the Combine are holding back with a view to obtaining at their own prices and unloading later. We quote, in regard to this, the following from *The American Mining News*:—

"The general shrinkage in copper values has been something enormous. . . . Now, in the real copper situation there is nothing to justify this rapid decline in values, that is if former prices were based upon actual conditions rather than upon deliberate manipulation. All traders in the metal are agreed that this years production cannot have any marked influence on the price. They understand that the projected combination of the leading copper companies failed to realize its projected object. The output of the mines does not keep pace with the demand, and while consumers may have fair supplies on hand, the time is approaching when their orders must be increased. The strides being made in electrical invention is bringing copper steadily into greater use to an almost incredible extent and it will be some years before the actual steady output will be much increased, so that there is little fear of a permanency in the low prices, and we should consider copper stock as good as ever.

### B. C. IN LONDON

SEVERAL of the London journals have lately had representatives in British Columbia, looking up its resources, more especially the possibilities of permanency of its mines. Amongst these are such papers as *The Financial News*, *The B. C. Review* and *Financial Times*. Mr. Lefroy has made a tour of the whole country, and on his return will have much to say which will be decidedly beneficial to the advancement of our province. Mr. Bromhead gives a very good general outline of the country but has paid most attention to the Rossland camp. No one here has any doubt as to the permanency of the latter. There are other camps, such as the Slocan, which are as worthy of notice, and other towns whose permanency is assured, as, for instance, Nelson, which is fast becoming apt to become more so owing to the centering there of several railroad lines, such as the C. P. R. and Kalso and the Crow's Nest Pass, besides which it is now well known to be the centre of supplies for the greater portion of the Kootenay. Many other towns are fast becoming of importance as Greenwood, Grand Forks, and Columbia in the Boundary District. Of course the future of these latter is to some extent problematical and being dependent on the permanency of the mines, but though these are comparatively new and not as yet by any matter of means worked sufficiently to prove their permanency and values with depth, what has been

done and the general indications, are such as to give every confidence and lead to the expectation of a brilliant future.

WE are one with *The British Columbian Review* in expressing regret, nay, even disgust, at the want of enterprise on the part of British Columbians in allowing such an opportunity as the Greater Britain Exposition, at Earl's Court, London, Eng., to pass by without representation. The U. S., Australia and Ontario, at the last moment—and that through the energy of one individual—were represented, or the entire Dominion would have been conspicuous by its absence.

Such a lack of enterprise is simply inexcusable and the consequences are only too evident when gauged by the capital invested in British Columbia, compared to the Cape and Australia, both of which are solid in the support of every medium which advances the interests of their separate colonies. Hence millions sterling have been and can be obtained for mining, or for the industrial development of either of these go-a-head colonies.

The war in the Transvaal will result in a solid South African Dominion, and will forge the most important link in the British chain of Empire in Africa, of which the Cape is the initial and Cairo the objective point. Meanwhile, instead of making the most of her opportunities, British Columbia seems satisfied with the shadow of what she should be and is content with the bare fact of existence. The blame attaches equally both to the individuals and the Governments. Both are quantities which seem laboring under some hypnotic influence to the disadvantage of the Province. New Zealanders at Otago should be an object lesson to us; local capital, to the tune of £600,000, being invested in dredging alone, while here—well, comparisons are odious. We are not pessimistic, but we do deplore the existing condition of things and would point out that by harmonious and concerted action of both the people and the Government, in supporting bona fide objects for the advancement of the Province, her natural resources would soon command that attention they deserve, and the result would be a satisfied, prosperous people.

Messrs H. Hunker and H. Waugh are down from Dawson, where they have both been for some years past. They have lately sold two claims on Hunker for \$165,000. Mr. Hunker is well known in British Columbia as one of its early pioneers in mining, having named more than one of the rich placer creeks of the country besides that in the Klondike, as, for instance, Hunker Creek on the Big Bend north of Revelstoke. He has spent a number of years in the Yukon and has succeeded after many years of arduous toil in making a fortune. Mr. Waugh has been associated with him for some time past, both estimate the general output to be between \$40,000,000 and \$45,000,000, and state that this is greatly owing to the improved methods of

working and the importation of machinery, and that this figure would be greatly increased were it not for the number of inexperienced men who are working properties there, and that were these owned by companies, with sufficient capital to put in thawing plants and hoisting engines, the output might easily be doubled.

Amongst the creeks which have been proving the most valuable this year are Eldorado, Hunker, Bonanza, both Skookums, Quartz, Last Chance and Sulphur, the latter much better than was expected, this being due to a great extent to the large amount of machinery being used there. Eldorado and Hunker are continuing as rich as ever, also Bonanza, more particularly near the Forks. On Little Skookum and Last Chance the main values have been found on the benches in old channels and at their mouths at the present creek beds. Dominion did not show up quite so well this spring, as was at first expected, and a number quit work after having sunk one hole, others remained on and in drifting found the pay, and wherever this has been the case the values have proved exceedingly good. These have been mostly found to exist in the benches and are very much richer than the creek, in fact it is only where the outer rim of the old and higher creek beds have broken out that values have been got. Silver Creek is also doing well.

Both are of opinion that hydraulicing is thoroughly practicable where water can be obtained, and mention Last Chance as good ground if water can be procured with sufficient head, and that Alex. McDonald's company is putting in an extensive plant on the Anderson Concession. Mr. Gilveray is applying for a concession for water and fluming rights to supply Hunker, Dominion and Bonanza Creeks and tributaries with water for hydraulicing. This, they say, will cost a large sum of money, but it is perfectly practicable. They expect that their charges will be high but that it will be a great boon. The water will be taken from Klondike River at a point about 200 miles from Dawson. They report the latter place to be vastly improved this year, the sanitary arrangements being good and an excellent water supply having been obtained. The death rate is greatly decreased, being now somewhat below the average. They believe Klondike will be as good a field in twenty years time if not better than it is now. General opinion is that the Government has been very remiss in doing nothing heretofore in opening up the country by making roads. They have lately commenced on one that will run along the top of the ridge between Hunker and Bonanza. Timber will become scarce in about five years but there is abundance of coal to take its place, the best being on the Klondike River about twenty miles from the mouth. There is also coal at Five Finger Rapids, and again on Seventy Mile Creek. Messrs Granger and McIntire have in their estimation the best location (3 claims) on the White Horse Copper Ledge, and also some valuable concessions in the same district. They report the copper find to be something wonderful and that there are enormous bodies of rich ore which can be worked out from the surface at very small cost.

Ranching has been tried by several, and although the season is short, good results are got. Mr. Attle has quite a considerable farm where they say he raises all sorts of crops and makes all sorts of money, but this will to a great extent be done away with when the railway gets through to Dawson.

Mrs. Hunker has been in with her husband and says she enjoys life up there and certainly looks the

picture of health. She owns several claims which are being worked with good results. They are returning there in the spring.

## COPPER-MINING

Twenty years ago, Chili furnished nearly one-third of all the copper mined in the world, Spain and Portugal one-fifth, and the United States less than one-sixth. In 1883 this country led the production, and by 1890 our proportion had been raised to one-half. Some copper is produced by Japan, Germany, and Australia, but the ores are low grade and the output not large. Practically all the copper mined in this country now comes from three districts—one in the northern peninsula of Michigan, another in Montana, and a third in Arizona. The Michigan mines are much the oldest, and date back to 1845. For three decades Michigan monopolized the industry and furnished severally eight to nine-tenths of the whole American copper output. The most famous mines there are the Calumet and Hecla, owned almost exclusively in Boston. Other companies have been able to come in upon the Calumet and Hecla vein; under the mining laws of Michigan which grant ownership straight down from the surface boundaries, and do not allow owners to follow their vein slantwise under the ground, as do the Federal mining laws. The Tamarac is a new company which is sharing the treasures of the Calumet and Hecla, and the Franklin and Kearsarge are among the other principal producers in Michigan.

Copper discoveries were made in Arizona about twenty years ago, and the territory now produces one-third as much of the metal as Michigan. The most noted Arizona mines are the Copper Queen, the United Verde, and the Old Dominion.

The Montana copper-mines are situated at Butte in the midst of a very large group of silver mines, and their ores carry considerable silver and a little gold; so that it is commonly believed that they yield enough of these two precious metals to pay for the cost of mining them, leaving the copper in them as net profit. All the Montana copper comes from a rectangle two and one-half miles long and one mile wide. The largest producing mine is the Anaconda, now controlled by Eastern capitalists, but recently owned by Messrs. Haggitt, Tevis, Hearst, and Daly, of California, and managed by Marcus Daly, who developed the property and built the great smelting-works at Anaconda.

## HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.

The intervention which would have prevented the expansion of this Republic may or may not be attempted to check the designs of England. That will depend a good deal on the apparent hazard of the enterprise, and the possibility of securing entire agreement among those who may insist on being parties to it. In any case, it is not the kind of intervention which this country can afford to applaud. For all time the future of the race with which we are most closely allied is ours, and one-half of the English-speaking family cannot be compelled to bend to the dictates of its natural enemies without impairing the strength and influence of the other. The success of an anti-English league would greatly simplify the success of an anti-American league, which was a favorite topic in the European press less than two years ago. Whatever amount of sympathy may be felt for the cause of the Boers, the fact should be frankly recognized that England is doing

in South Africa the work of civilization—a work which could not well be longer deferred. It is certainly part of the work which is destined to bring about that dominance of the English speaking race which is best for the good of mankind, and in which we ourselves can no more help being in our special sphere, participants, than we can turn back the shadow on the dial of time.—N. Y. Ex.

### BACK FROM KLONDIKE

Mr. W. Pacey, who has just returned from the Klondike, was interviewed by a Star reporter on his arrival, with the following result:—

You belong to Otago, Mr. Pacey?—Yes, I belong Alexandra South.

How long were you at the Klondike?—I arrived there on the 18th July in 1898, and left on the third of July last—a few days less than a year. I got back by the Moana.

Did you reach the diggings?—I did. I first went to Bonanza Creek. That and El Dorado are the two particularly rich creeks in Klondike. Then I bought a claim on Gold Hill for \$900, and there I remained, except for short runs further back, until I came away.

Where is the Golden Hill?—Sixteen miles from Dawson City.

A hard place to get to?—It used to be, but not now.

There are no fewer than forty steamers running in and out of the port during the summer months, and you can get to Dawson City almost without wetting your feet.

There is a railway to the summit of the White Pass, and when the ice breaks up—which this year was on the 17th May in Dawson City, and on the 5th or 6th of June in Bennett—you can take a steamer to Dawson.

There is a tram running round White Horse Rapids, and another tram goes round Five Finger Rapids. It is at these places, particularly at the White Horse Rapids, where so many people have lost their lives.

You speak of El Dorado and Bonanza as the chief creeks. Are there others where good gold is found?—Oh, bless you, yes. There are other main creeks besides these. There are the Dominion, and the Sulphur, and the Hunker—all rich creeks. They run more or less directly into the Yukon. All of these are very rich. Outside of them, however, there is nothing particularly satisfactory. There are lots of places where payable gold is found—payable stuff, but not sensational, though a great many fellows make wages on them.

Do you think the Klondike is likely to give out soon or to last as a goldfield?—Speaking as a miner of 30 years experience, I should say that the Klondike will be a better field in ten years than it is now. Perhaps it will last for over twenty years. How long, nobody can say, but it is not going to be worked out quickly.

Can you give me any fact to go upon in support of this?—Yes. Ground that has been run over and left will pay for working again. One claim of this sort, right above me, was taken up by a man named William McCormic, who worked the tailings and got \$4,000 worth of gold out of stuff which the first holders had thrown away.

What sort of working is it?—Well, the ground runs from 12 ft. to 150 ft., and often 200 ft. deep to the bedrock, and you have to sink and thaw all the way. Perhaps you will not manage to get down more than 10 in. or 18 in. a day. You first dig a hole and light a fire on it, and then dig a bit deeper and light another

fire, and that's the way you go on. You keep on putting in spruce fires.

Is there plenty of wood about for the fires?—Any amount. The whole country is covered with the spruce pine. Of course, the men use a lot of it, and sometimes you have to go back a bit to get it, but there is always plenty.

What size claims are they?—The creek claims are 500 ft. square. Then at the back of these are what they call the bench claims—what we in New Zealand would call terraces. They run 100 ft. square, and the next tier will be 250 ft. frontage by 1000 ft. up the hill.

And how do you hold these claims?—On a miner's right for which you pay \$10, and a recording fee of \$15; that is, when you get the chance to pay it. It took me six days to get into the recording office, there was such a rush of people, and then I was a bit ahead of some of those who were waiting.

And what kind of ground is it to work?—The most is a quartz gravel very much like stuff I have mined at Waikaka and Switzers, and there is a lot of the same stuff about the Molyneux. We don't call it wash at the Klondike; we call it pay dirt. It runs about 5 ft. through, and you may get the gold in any part of the wash, sometimes near the top, at other times on the bottom. This sample here (producing a bag of nuggets running up to half-ounce pieces) I got off the top of a 5 ft. lot of pay dirt. This other stuff, what we call dust, but which you will see is as big as what would be called rough gold in New Zealand, was got about the middle of a seam. The bottom generally found is a mica schist rock. That is what we call the bed reef.

Is there any reefing at the Klondike?—Not a reef had been found up to the time I left.

And how do you get the gold out?—When you are on a creek claim you generally use sluice boxes, and up on the hill claims you have to rock it out. I got all mine with cradling.

Is the population getting smaller or larger?—Smaller, most decidedly. There are lots of people there of the wrong sort—doctors and lawyers and barbers, and broken-downs generally, and they are not the sort of people to do any good in a place like that. I may also say that there are more people there than there is ground opened out for.

Then there should be plenty of room for prospectors?—That's just it. If the ground was in New Zealand it would be thoroughly prospected in lots of places where never a spade has been put in; but you can't prospect very easily at the Klondike. The ground is so precious hard that it makes it expensive. In the summer the thaw is felt only about six feet down, and for the rest of the year it's solid ice from the very surface.

The two deepest shafts on the Klondike are 250 ft. down, and the ground solid ice all the way. Nobody has got to the bottom of the ice yet.

Then it is to be gathered that you have a favorable opinion of the Klondike on the whole?—Most certainly. I think that anybody who would make a discouraging report about it would be foolish, and not warranted by the facts.

Are you going back yourself, Mr. Pacey?—I am not. I have had my turn. I am largely interested at Alexandra, being one of the promoters of the Golden Beach, and I am going to stop here to look after my interests. All the same I have every faith in the Klondike for men of the right sort.—*Otago Star.*

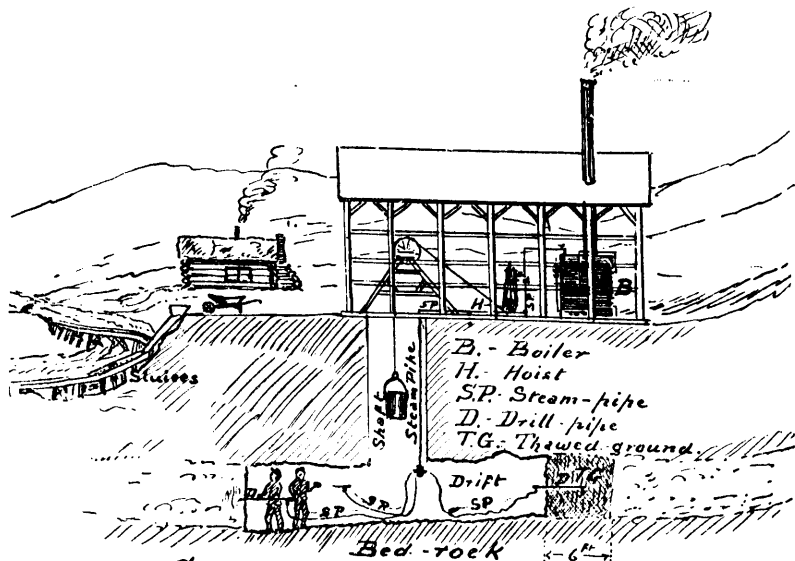
## GOLD MINING IN THE KLONDIKE.

Great strides have been made in the past year in the methods of mining in the Klondike. When this country was first opened up, a completely new class of mining was gone into, namely, that of mining frozen ground. At first some of the enormously rich ground was found to be workable by the tedious but most natural method of thawing out with fires. It soon became apparent that only a comparatively small number of the locations would pay to work by this means, and men commenced devising means to work more economically, and steam (as in most cases where economy of power and fuel is the object) came into vogue and has been given a thorough test this year and splendid results have been obtained. It was necessary, on account of the cost and difficulty of transportation, that the apparatus used should be a take-down concern and as light as possible. It was also necessary, on account of the scarcity of wood and cost of turning the same into cordwood, that the greatest possible care should be taken to obtain the largest possible heating surface compatible with substantiality. The result of this has been a pipe-boiler, constructed with a dome above of heavy boiler plate, connected by a series of pipes with chambers below, these latter to enable the sediments to deposit and be cleaned out. Many classes of pipe-boilers have been taken in. Amongst these were the porcupine boiler, spiral pipe, and one made with two sets of horizontal and two sets of vertical pipes connected with two sets of heavy waterpipe chambers above and below. These have generally proved more or less failures, as the pipes clog up and when once choked become distorted and cause continual trouble. The best classes of boilers known up to date are such as we show in the accompanying illustration, and should be at least from 10 to 12 h. p., and have in connection a 4 to 5 h. p. hoisting engine. From these boilers a hose is led off to the workings, attached to which is a 6-ft. length of ordinary gas-pipe, half-inch has been found to be most suitable, which is beaten down to a round point at one end. The steel points have proved a complete failure. The other end is plugged with a solid steel cap for striking on; a couple of inches below this plug is inserted a T pipe to which the hose from the boiler is attached. The drill is used in the same way as an ordinary mining drill, namely, driven into the frozen ground with a hammer, and the steam passing through the small hole in the point is used to thaw out the ground. It is usual to drive about three feet. The steam will thaw out about three feet beyond this point in about five hours, making in all about four cubic yards of thawed dirt to every hole. This is then picked loose and shovelled into buckets and hoisted to the surface to be, in summer, passed to the boxes for cleaning, and in winter saved on the dump where it remains frozen up till the following summer. Where before this year only gravels from 25c. per pan, or \$14.00 per cubic yard, yielded pay results, it is now found that, with these newer and more improved methods, gravel which yields 10c. per pan in deep ground, will pay well.

Of course these latter are not poor men's ground, as it requires considerable capital to install plant, and where formerly only two men could work seven work now. Nearly all the companies operating in the Klondike are now working the machines.

This year's work has also had as a result the finding of pay streaks of many of the creeks, where no pay was found formerly, and many of the claims which could have been bought a year ago for a mere song are held now for from \$5,000 to \$50,000. In many cases what was supposed to be bedrock and the end of pay has been found to be only a false bedrock, superimposed on another bed of rich pay gravels, and in some cases there are more than one of these layers, so the life of the camp will be far greater than at first supposed by many years. It has been further demonstrated, beyond a doubt, that hydraulic working can be successfully carried on up there. This would to most seem an utter absurdity in ground frozen solid right down to bedrock, but is simple enough when fully explained. The ground has been frozen in layers; the bottom

ing the summer months, but when this is removed nearly 4 feet of ground comes thoroughly thawed out very quickly, but until this is removed the action does not proceed further, or only by very slow degrees. Generally, facilities for dump from the benches above the actual creek claims are good, and there is in most places plenty of water for working hydraulic plants. It is not necessary to have the same force or volume as in the working of ordinary gravel deposits, as the mode of operation is only the removal and sluicing of the thawed surface, the action of the water helping the natural agencies in thawing to a very considerable extent. At first the water is turned on to the moss-covered surface, and a large space cleared of vegetation, the first part being sufficiently thawed by the time this is ac-



Sketch showing mode of working frozen ground with thawing machines.

Drill used 1/2 inch Gas-pipe.

C.R.G. Trans. M.E.

layer of a few feet having been frozen first, many ages ago; slide and other detritus were brought down from the hill sides on top of this and again frozen. In some cases many of these layers have been superimposed each one or most covered over with a growth of moss, which was a sufficient non-conductor of heat to prevent much thawing of the surface gravel till the next mass came down. Apparently the present surface has remained unaltered for many years. In the successive formation of these layers the creek bottoms have been shifted hither and thither and, in their cutting through, have concentrated the gold of the wash through which they passed into streaks, marking the creek beds in the bottoms, and here have been found the fabulously rich diggings of some of the best creeks. The general mass is also mostly rich, but does not yield as a rule, with ordinary methods, good pay; though there are exceptions where the benches are proving richer than the creeks.

The surface, where covered with moss, only thaws out for about 18 inches dur-

ing the summer months, but when this is removed nearly 4 feet of ground comes thoroughly thawed out very quickly, but until this is removed the action does not proceed further, or only by very slow degrees. Generally, facilities for dump from the benches above the actual creek claims are good, and there is in most places plenty of water for working hydraulic plants. It is not necessary to have the same force or volume as in the working of ordinary gravel deposits, as the mode of operation is only the removal and sluicing of the thawed surface, the action of the water helping the natural agencies in thawing to a very considerable extent. At first the water is turned on to the moss-covered surface, and a large space cleared of vegetation, the first part being sufficiently thawed by the time this is ac-

Mr. Alex. MacDonald formed a company in London to operate hydraulic plants, and last year installed a small one at the mouth of Skookum Creek, and has worked it this season with the result that the plant has paid its first cost and that of installing it, and all previous prospecting work, and left a small margin over. A very extensive plant was also taken in, and is now being installed, to be ready to operate next season. Very much of the ground which it is proposed to work by this means, will average from 15 cents to 25 cents per pan. Timber is plentiful and in most places water fairly abundant, and head easily procurable, where it is necessary to construct flumes. There is plenty of timber on the higher hills above the benches, and there is everywhere nearly all required grade for dumping the waste gravels. Taking

these things into consideration, some enormous fortunes should be made in the next few years.

We are indebted for most of our information on this subject to Mr. Marks, superintendent for the Grand Forks of Bonanza Company, who has spent some years in the Klondike, and previous to this, was for many years in the Australian and New Zealand mines, and has a thorough knowledge of placer mining in all its branches.

## The B. C. Mining Exchange and Investor's Guide.

is published monthly as a Guide to Investors generally, to whose interests it devotes itself.

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### Mining Matters.

We pointed out in our June number the possibilities of the better opening up of the country by the proper education of the prospector. We might further suggest that this might be greatly helped out, at a very small cost to the country, by the institution of Government Geological and Mineralogical collections properly labeled and classified, and to be placed on view at the government offices, or in some room set aside for such purpose, in the court houses of the principal districts. Besides this, we would strongly advise a more systematic exploration of the country by reliable men, and as a means to this end, assistance in expenses should be given to men reporting to have made discoveries of value in hitherto unopened up districts, to extend their researches and make reports to the Government, and that they be given an incentive to explore, by allowing them to locate a larger tract of mineral lands than ordinarily, and, in quartz, making a discovery in any district, say of a certain area, double the dimensions of ordinary claims. In Australia they even go further and bonus (for working purposes only) any such new find, and we are of the opinion that this might be done with advantage. In order that this might be carried out properly, reports of any such new discoveries should be made to the nearest Gold Commissioner, and references given by the finder, by means of which his standing could be ascertained, and he should not be one competent to report extensively and thoroughly, some other who is known to be competent and reliable, be sent in with him, and his reports published and posted at government offices throughout the country, for the benefit of the public, and that, where these districts are at all accessible and favorably reported on, the Government

cause trunk roads to be made to them. There are still in British Columbia, yes, and at the present rate will be for many years to come, vast tracts of unexplored territory, utterly unknown to the white man, in many cases even to the Indians, and we are of opinion that the exploration and opening up of these will amply repay the expenditure for the exploration. It is known that large areas of good farming lands exist in the interior, and several districts rich in valuable minerals have from time to time been reported to exist within reasonable distance of transportation, but no notice has been taken of these reports, and consequently, as machinery, etc., cannot be got in without roads, they are lying neglected. Once open up these resources, and railroads will soon follow and the country become more prosperous. There is another point which we would wish to draw attention to here, and that is, the class of men who, in many cases, are being chosen for gold commissions; surely they should be men with a knowledge of mining, not the dry goods dealers, and such like, who have been getting these positions of late years, through having a string to pull. They have a large amount of responsibility and tremendous powers. They should be men competent to use these powers for the benefit of those operating in their divisions. What can a grocer or dry goods man know about the granting of water rights, for instance? We have of course some excellent men in these positions, but many poor ones. The most natural man for an intending purchaser, or his agent or even for the prospector to go to for reliable information in any district, is the Commissioner or Recorder. In many cases he will find that these are really the worst informed. We do not wish to insinuate that these men do not do their duties to the best of their knowledge, but simply that they are not the men for their positions. We cannot expect them all to accumulate the same store of information, or such valuable collections from their districts as are to be had from officers, such as those of Golden and Barkerville; but there is room for a great deal of improvement, which will not be till none but competent men are chosen.

### AN OLD MINER'S CHAT.

A miner, of long experience in the Western mining States, remarked to a representative of the Butte (Mont.) Mining World, the other day: "There is a marked difference between the way a pilgrim and an experienced man approaches one for information respecting the conditions surrounding newly discovered placers. The miner will generally first ask how it prospects, whether from the grass-roots down, or only on the bed-rock; the fall of the ground to the sluice box, the amount of water at command, the depth of the diggings, and the character of the bed-rock. He will wish to know the kind of wash-gravel, whether large or small, and whether it can be moved by water or must be moved out of the way by hand. These are his principal inquiries, and the drift of his talk will run upon these lines.

"If it be quartz that he is inquiring after he will want to know the character of the country rock, the character of the wall rock, the dip or inclination and trend of the leads, width of gangue matter between walls, depth to water, and how much, and the amount of mining timber at

hand. These are all essentials which the old placer or quartz miner wishes to know.

"But the newcomer or tenderfoot pursues a different, and sometimes very amusing, line of inquiries. I have been asked whether the country was hilly or level; the price of meals in the neighborhood; how many families were around, and dozens of other questions which make an old miner tired. And all of them about a country in which a white man has scarcely been seen, and whose echoes wild beasts alone have awakened. Still, some of the men soon adapt themselves to their surroundings, and make good and successful miners. We were all pilgrims once, and didn't know the difference between the head of a sluice or the pole of a pick; or a stull from a stope; or forty-rod from the genuine stuff; but we learned by hard knocks, and so will the tenderfoot."

### SOME COPPER FACTS.

At a meeting of the Copper Producers' Association, held in Boston, Secretary Stanton reported that the production of copper in the United States during last July was 21,333 tons or about 700 tons less than were produced during the month of May preceding.

A table accompanying the report shows that during the year ended July 31, 1899, the production of copper in the United States was 241,253 tons, as against 228,250 tons for the twelve months ended July 31, 1898, and 209,914 tons for the corresponding period ended July 31, 1897. These figures show that the increases during the last two years have been gradual, being 18,736 for 1898, over 1897 and only 12,605 tons for the year ended July 31, 1899, over the total production for the year ended July 31, 1898.

During the same three years the export of copper from the United States were: In 1897 (year ending July 31,) 135,000 tons; 1898, 134,250 tons; and for the year ended July 31, 1899, 125,097 tons. These figures show a decrease in exports during the last two years.

The European production for the same years is reported at: For the twelve months ended July 31, 1897, 87,884 tons; for 1898, 84,354 tons; and for the twelve months ended July 31, 1899, 84,164 tons. These figures show a decrease in European production during the last two years.

There is everything in these figures to indicate that prices for copper will remain steady for a long time to come.

### A RECORD SMASHER.

The mine that produced the most gold of any in all the world, during last August is the Lake View Consols, in West Australia. Its output is reported at 31,305 ounces, having a value of \$620,000. That is a record breaker. The next to it is the Simmer and Jack, of South Africa, with 22,460 ounces.

The enormous increase in the yield of Western Australia's gold mines is the marked feature in mining of the present day. In January, 1897, its total gold production was 28,099 ounces; in August 1899, it was 152,250 ounces; and that was from the British-owned mines only. With its immense area, comparatively unexplored, it is quite possible that Western Australia will soon be as great a gold producer as the Transvaal in South Africa.

## BIG MINE PROFITS.

Out of fifty-four paying gold mines in the Transvaal, South Africa, fifty-one paid profits during last August amounting to £607,560, equal to about \$3,037,800 for the month. Only one mine reported a loss, and from the other two no returns were received.

The largest payer for that month was the Robinson Gold, which reports a profit of \$210,000. One other, the Crown Reef Gold, has just declared a dividend of 180 per cent. on its capital stock.

## Mining News

War Eagle has fluctuated considerably during the week, the highest sales having been at 303, and the lowest at 277.

A despatch from Vancouver states that the War Eagle's new electric hoist, the largest in Canada, will probably be the subject of suits, involving not less than \$32,000. A Rossland special gives some details of the difficulty. It says that the War Eagle Company and the company which furnished the hoist are now lining up for a legal battle that will rank among the biggest in the mining history of the Dominion. The plant, according to the War Eagle Company, has been unsatisfactory from the start. Already four men have, it is said, been killed by it, and is now lying utterly idle. The War Eagle people claim that it is of poor workmanship throughout, and declare that the most inferior material was used in its construction. The contract price was \$20,000. Two payments on it have already been made and the third is overdue, as the mining company refuses to meet it. The clash will come in that connection. As the machinery men are expected to bring an action to recover their balance of \$7,000 the War Eagle Company without doubt will answer by instituting another; on account of alleged damages for breach of contract. While the main fight is between the War Eagle and the machinery company, the Canadian General Electric will probably be involved before the case is finished. It furnished the motors, costing \$12,000, used in connection with the hoist. They were believed to be satisfactory, but the company is likely to be made a party to litigation.

Centre Star stock sold on the local exchange as high as 170, but to-day 168½ was bid after sales had been made at 164.

The stock was allotted War Eagle shareholders share for share up to 5,000 shares, but the subscriptions of larger War Eagle shareholders and outsiders were reduced by one-half.

Payne, Republic and Montreal-London are all somewhat easier, in sympathy with other stocks, but with cheaper money in sight they should all work higher.

J. W. Drewry, Managing Director of the Canadian Gold Fields Syndicate (Limited), has purchased the controlling interest in the Moyie Mining Company, says "The Rossland Miner." This company owns the well-known Moyie and Queen of the Hills mines at Moyie, B.C. The Moyie Mining Company is incorporated for \$240,000, divided into 48,000 shares of a par value of \$5 each. Mr. Drewry has purchased 27,000 shares, or 9-16 of the whole. Messrs. Gooderham & Blackstone have purchased 6,000 shares, or one-eighth of the whole; the remain-

ing shares are now owned in Montreal. The company, of which Mr. Drewry is Managing Director, already own the Lake Shore Group mine and are now shipping regularly from the Lake Shore to the Trail smelter. The deal was a cash one, and was on a basis of \$200,000 for the property.

The stock of the Virtue Mining Company was listed on Monday, the initial transactions taking place at 45. Sales were made to-day at 47, and higher prices looked for, as the company expect to be in a position to pay a dividend within three or four month's time. The number of shares which changed hands during the last three days was 19,700.

The Republic Mine was located by Phil Creaser and Tommy Ryan, March 5, 1896. They sold their interest to Patrick Clark in the summer of 1897 for \$60,000 cash. The serious development of the mine did not commence till the fall of that year. A mill was completed in the spring of 1898, and in November of that year the first dividend was paid. Since that time, up to September 15 of this year, the total dividends paid amounted to \$323,000. A dividend of 1 per cent. on the capital stock of \$3,500,000 is paid regularly every month. The mill has a capacity of but 30 tons a day. Very few, if any, mines in the world have paid so much in dividends in so short a time after the opening of a mine and on so small a consumption of ore. This, more eloquently than anything else can do, speaks for the rich character of the ore. It is not too much to say the Republic is the richest mine in existence. It should be remembered that all the development work of the mine, including the long No. 4 tunnel, just completed, at a cost of nearly \$30,000, has been paid for out of the proceeds of the mine as well as the mill, which cost \$75,000. The company directors have recently authorized the construction of a new mill of 100 tons daily capacity. When this is completed there is no reason why the mine should not pay 2 per cent. per month on its capital, or at the rate of \$70,000 a month. — Republic Miner.

## From the Camps.

## ATLIN

Later news from Atlin is somewhat more encouraging, more especially with regard to the possibility of hydraulic. A great deal of stress is laid on the scarcity of timber for fluming in connection with hydraulic, but we consider that this can be got over to a great extent by using light steel piping, now that that transportation is becoming easy.

Mr. P. W. Law who is a considerable property holder in this district, informs us that he has been over most of the country and after careful inspection has come to the conclusion that it is considerably spotty; but that where gold has been found it is coarse and easily worked in the creeks. The benches as a rule are fair pay, and can in many cases be worked by hydraulic. As a rule, however, it is difficult to get sufficient head of water on to the higher grounds. It is not a country that anywhere nearly approaches the Klondike in value, though a great many are coming out this year with sums varying from \$1,000 to \$6,000

Discovery on Boulder was worked from July 5th to October 9th, this year with a result of 1¼ oz. per man per diem. The property is being worked by sluicing; four men are working on it.

A 12-inch pipe can be used with about 500 miner's inches which can be obtained on many of the creeks, even in dry seasons. This would be sufficient, Mr. Law considers, for ordinary hydraulic. He considers Ruby Creek the most advantageously situated for hydraulic, being good and water plenty; also there is more timber there than on other creeks. Source of supply is from Ruby Mountain, Pine Creek, with source of supply at Surprise Lake, is also good, and also Spruce Creek. The great disadvantage seems to be the scarcity of timber. There is plenty between Ruby and Boulder.

Prospects on his properties on Willow Creek turned out from 30c. to 40c. per cubic yard. There are from 400 to 500 working now on Willow Creek group and results are good. Willow Creek properties have been selling at from \$50 to \$1,000. On Wright Creek from \$8,000 to \$9,000 have been taken out this year.

Mr. R. D. Featherstonhaugh, who for some time past has been contracting on the Bluebells mine, has gone to Atlin to work properties recently acquired there by Lord Hamilton, of which excellent reports have reached us lately.

## CAPE NOME

Reports from Cape Nome are not very encouraging. We have it on very reliable authority that the gold is very fine, and men are not averaging more than \$10 per day. The pay is patchy and the climate frightful, one everlasting rain accompanied with cold cutting winds. It is frozen most all winter and in summer is a mass of mud. Fresh water is scarce, and fuel none, except the few drift logs on the beach, and what coal is brought in by the steamers, and lumber has to be imported.

## KLONDIKE.

GRAND FORKS OF BONANZA, LTD. Superintendent Marks informs us that his company's position is all that could be desired. Although he did not get the machinery and plant on the digging till about the second week in August, he was enabled to set the company's property in order; did some rocking, getting \$1.00 to the bucket; prospected on No. 43, Quartz Creek, struck the pay streak at 16 ft. and set six men with machine working on this property during the winter. He estimates the dump in the spring will be worth at least \$14,000,00 on the wash up. On Skookum Gulch he sunk some 40 to 50 feet getting good pay and will take up the work on this next season. The Company have acquired 10 other properties of Last Chance, Hunker Creek, three of which are proved to be as rich as the best in the Klondike. The Grand Forks of Bonanza Co. Ltd., may be congratulated both in regard to the properties and their superintendent, who has proved a thoroughly capable and energetic man. Shares, we are requested to state are at 50 cents.

## EAST KOOTENAY.

Development work in this district is virtually shut down for the winter, with the exception of the older properties around Fort Steele and a few mines in the Windermere Division, there is not much doing. Several deals of importance are reported lately from the latter, among

which is the sale of three-quarter interest in the Delphine for \$38,000 and for \$150,000 to Messrs. A. Fand and W. G. Mitchell Innes, who represent the New Golden B. C., Ltd. Results of this summer's work have shown a steady improvement in all properties heard from. In some cases winter camps are being put in on properties which were not worked last winter.

**THE SLOCAN.**

The Slocan is dull, most of the shippers not working, owing to disagreement as to wages, and we are sorry to see the Athabasca added to the number. Amongst those which have ceased shipping as a consequence of the eight-hour law are such well known mines as the Payne, Ruth, Last Chance and Slocan Star. Some promising properties are being opened up, however, this year and likely to make shippers for the coming one; amongst these is the Vulture, near Cody.

**LARDEAU.**

A large amount of development has been done this year in most of the camps in this district, and we hear excellent reports from all sides. The Great Western Mines, Ltd., have purchased the Ajax, adjoining the Netty L. On the latter claim in crosscutting on the lower level for the vein which they have been working with such wonderful results, they struck a large vein of pyritic iron, averaging well, and beyond this entered a body of graphite carrying large quantities of sulphides of silver. They should strike the vein for which they are running in about 40 feet. The tunnel is in nearly one body at 40 feet, as expected, they will then have a mineral zone of over 60 feet in width; this was indicated on the surface, and would now seem to be all in good values. The Beatrice has been bonded for \$150,000. It is surprising to many that the I. X. L., which adjoins the Netty L., and is in line with the Silver Cup, should be yet unworked. The Silver Cup is working steadily accumulating ore and mapping out preparatory to rawhiding this winter. Many other mines may be expected to be heard from as soon as the snow is fit for hauling. We hear that excellent properties on Fish Creek and Duncan River, which will undoubtedly prove shippers of consequence when better facilities have been obtained for getting ore out.

**SMILKAMEEN BOUNDARY.**

This copper camp of B. C. has been exceedingly lucky this season, the district and those properties which have been developed and worked on, the past year or so, have by continued working proved satisfactory to the lucky owners. This applies in particular to Volcanic Brown's Nickel Plate at Twenty-Mile Creek. These properties are continuing work through the winter with a big staff of men. In fact so prosperous is this camp that there is not an idle man there. This camp is an eight-hour one and the owners are quite in harmony with it.

There has also been some rich finds in this locality; notably the Monarchy Group on Kennedy Mountain, where considerable work has been done during the last three months, the property proving its value every foot sunk or driven. Tunnel driven on the Monarchy is in a sulphide ore.

The shaft on the Royalty, although only down some 40 feet, is in bornite, and the values increasing in both.

Friday Queen, we hear, is working also most of the winter. This is a copper property and is proving a rich strike.

The Superintendent of the "Monarchy" group, informs us that this camp is undoubtedly of a most encouraging character, and that any development work done in a business way will give splendid results to the owners.

R. A. (Volcanic) Brown, who is directing operations on the Sunset property, says: The Sunset beats anything I ever saw. At a depth of 86 feet the shaft is all bornite and improving every hour. A series of assays average \$56.56 all values. The Sunset-to-day is the greatest property in the world. As soon as the 100 ft. level is reached we shall drift 100 ft. in one direction and 400 ft. in the opposite direction; this will be repeated at the 200 ft. level, and we shall be down 100 ft. within a fortnight. A matting plant, of 50 tons per day, will be established next summer. As an instance of what people on the ground think of the property, the foreman, Isaac Loughheed has stipulated that his wages for the next six months be paid in shares, while the miners have bought 15,000 of the stock. Mr. Brown predicts that the Sunset shares will be quoted at \$5.00 within next month.

It is now definitely settled that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will extend the Columbia and Western line beyond Midway to the Smilkameen next summer. Chief engineer Tye recently drove over the proposed route. As a result, Oscar Eglund, one of his assistants, and a staff of 20 men, have been dispatched to the Smilkameen, locating the line. After leaving Rock Creek, west of Midway, the road, as now virtually decided on, will return to Keremeos and Princeton, through the Smilkameen Valley and thence to Spence's Bridge. Construction will begin from the Spence's Bridge end, and the first contract, it is understood, will be for 150 miles of grading.

**DIVIDENDS.**

Le Roi declared an interim dividend of 5s. per share, payable 7th of November, to shareholders registered 15th Oct.

The B. C. Telephone Co.'s first annual report declared a further dividend of 4 per cent., making now 8 per cent. per annum.

The New Vancouver Coal and Lands Co. have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. for half-year ended June 30th, payable 12th ult.

War Eagle Co. have made their usual monthly dividend of \$26,250.

**AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.**

The Otago Times (N. Z.), says that local capital invested in dredging alone is \$600,000 (\$30,000,000)! This district is no larger than Cariboo.

The total output of gold for the year for Australia, approximately, is \$58,000,000, 25 per cent. over last year; West Australia taking the lead.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**

Approximate output for nine months, \$78,000,000.

**CANADA**

Will total an output somewhere about \$45,000,000.

**RECENT REGISTRATIONS IN LONDON (ENG.)**

**YUKON GOLDFIELDS, LIMITED.**

Capital £100,000 in £1 shares. This company is formed to adopt an agreement with the Yukon now in voluntary liquidation, for the acquisition of certain mines, mining rights, etc., in British North America, and to develop and work the same.

Parties wishing to obtain Antimony or Molybdenum Properties can obtain information by addressing office of this paper.

**Finance.**

LONDON, Nov., 1899.

William Clark, with, no doubt, a generous intention of benefiting Canadian resources, is trying to float one here, the Canadian Food Supplying Association with a fifty thousand dollar capital. He is the gentleman who, under the auspices of the Dominion Government, managed the Canadian agricultural section at the Indian and Colonial Exposition in London about ten or a dozen years ago. He proposes to open Colonial meat shops, and he comfortably "estimates" a profit of about one hundred dollars per week from each shop. Major Clark's enterprise is praiseworthy, but it does not look a very attractive investment. You can already buy meat in London at all working-class shops as low as three and four cents a pound.

Several British victories have already taken place in the Transvaal and as money is easier, the Stock Markets are good. For the expenses of the war, the English Government will raise £3,000,000, by the creation of Treasury Bills, and to liquidate this amount or whatever may be required, it is not unreasonable to suppose that a special tax will be placed on the output of Witwatersrand when the mines resume working. There is less wild speculation in South Africa mining shares than was the case a week ago, but prices on balance have further improved, American and Canadian railroads are higher, encouraged mainly by large traffic increases, and a point in connection with the last-named is a proposed reorganization of the finances of the Chicago and Grand Trunk Company.

The B. C. department maintains the brighter aspect previously noted, and in B.A.C.'s, Le Roi, Velvet, London and B.C. Goldfields, Ymir, and Yukon Goldfields, transactions have taken place at higher prices, but as there is less feature than circumstances warrant, the war is evidently having its usually repressive influence on general business. The fortnightly settlement, concluded this evening, scarcely calls for further comment, except that a fair number of shares have been transferred to new hands.

At Toronto, a fall has occurred, due in part to the Payne management having decided to pass the usual dividend. War Eagles show particular weakness, caused it is asserted by the flotation of the Centre Star. The bigger holders of the former seem disappointed that Centre Star shares were not offered them. Taken altogether, the outlook is much brighter.



With regard to the flotation of new limited liability companies, loans, etc., September shows up very little better than depressed August. The total number of issues was thirteen for a capitalization of fourteen million dollars, against fifteen for something under twelve million dollars during August. The only mine during the month was a copper proposition.

The use of copper coins as scrap copper is announced from America, that country having imported from Bombay and Calcutta nearly 10,000 bags of these coins, having a total weight of 250 tons. At the present high price of copper these coins are worth more than their face value, but several pounds can be obtained in India for the price of one pound of copper in America.—“Work.”

Low as the quotations of South African mining stocks are, they are considerably above the 1896-97 period, when the Jameison Raid, the Venezuelan boundary, and other questions kept markets on the decline. Rand Mines touched 15½ in those days, swinging back to 45 this year in the boom. They stand at about 31 now. So with the East Rands, the Chartres, the Modderfonteins, etc. Further, the late low prices have stimulated buying in quiet channels, and stock is scarce. The general view is, that should war eventuate from the mass of contention, it will be of the shortest possible extent.

B. C. AND KLONDIKE QUOTATIONS.

- Alaska Goldfields, ¾.
- Athabaska ¾.
- Bennett Lake and Klondike Nav. 13-16
- British America Corporation. 22s.
- B. C. Development Assct. 1¾
- B. C. and New Find Goldfields, 5/8
- Dominion Mining Development and Agency ¾.
- Duncan Mines, 1 and 1-16
- Hall Mines, ½
- Klondike Bonanza, 7/8
- Klondike Mining, Trading, &c. ¾
- Le Roi 6 and 7-16
- Lillooet, Fraser R. & Cariboo 6s.
- London and B. C. Goldfields, 1 13-16.
- McDonald's Bonanza, 1.
- New Goldfields of B. C., 1 and 5-16
- Queen Bess Proprietary, 15-16
- Vancouver and B. C., Gen. Ex. 12s. 6d.
- Velvet, 1¼
- Whitewater Mines, ¾
- Yukon Goldfields, 1 and 7-16
- Ymir Gold Mines. 1 and 5-16

LOCAL STOCK MARKET.

	PAR VALUE.	PRICE
Albemi Con .....	1 00	05½
Albemi Mountain Rose..	1 00	05½
Athabasca .....	1 00	39
Big Three..	1 00	14
Cariboo Hydraulic .....	5 00	\$1 35
Cariboo McKinney .....	1 00	1 05
Canadian Goldfields .....	—	06½
Crow's Nest Coal.....	25 00	40 00
Dardanelles..	1 00	11½
Deer Park .....	1 00	4¼
Evening Star .....	1 00	10
Grand Forks of Bonanza	25	25
Hall Mines .....	1 00	—
Iron Colt .....	1 00	10
Iron Horse .....	1 00	8½
Iron Mask .....	1 00	17½

Knob Hill .....	1 00	90
Le Roi .....	£5	£6¾
Mineral Hill .....	1 00	05
Minnehaha .....	1 00	16
Monte Christo..	1 00	5½
Montreal Goldfields....	1 00	13
Morrison .....	—	15
Noble Five .....	1 00	24
Novelty .....	1 00	03
Old Ironsides .....	1 00	1 14
Payne .....	1 00	1 05
Rambler Cariboo .....	1 00	50
Rathmullen .....	1 00	08
Slocan Star .....	50	1 25
St. Elmo .....	1 00	67
Van Anda..	1 00	8½
Victory-Triumph .....	1 00	05½
Virginia .....	1 00	09
Waterloo .....	10	11½
War Eagle .....	1 00	2 85
Whit Bear .....	1 00	3½
Winnipeg .....	1 00	33

LATEST POINTS.—Bank Rate, 5 per cent. Open market rate three months bank bills, 4¼ per cent. Silver, 26¾d. per oz., (bar) standard. Copper, £73 5s. per ton. Pig iron, 70s. 8d. Tin, £138. Lead, £17. 10s. Consols, 104¾. Canada Three-and-a Half per Cent., 106. British Columbia Three per Cent., inscribed sock, 95. Canada Pacific Railway shares, 98¾. Bank of British Columbia, 18. Bank of British North America, 59. Bank of Montreal, 523. Hudson's Bay, 22.

THE METAL MARKET.

NEW YORK, Nov. 1, 1899.

The following are the Silver, Copper, and Lead quotations for the last two weeks:—

	SILVER.	COPPER.	LEAD.
Oct. 16 ...	58½	18 50	4 60
“ 17 ...	58¾	18 50	4 60
“ 18 ...	58	18 50	4 60
“ 20 ...	58	18 25	4 60
“ 21 ...	58	18 25	4 60
“ 23 ...	57¾	18 25	4 60
“ 24 ...	57¾	18 25	4 60
“ 25 ...	57¾	18 25	4 60
“ 26 ...	57¾	18 00	4 57½
“ 27 ...	57¾	18 00	4 57½
“ 28 ...	57¾	18 00	4 60
“ 30 ...	57¾	18 00	4 60

SILVER.—The market has been steady and dull, showing only small fractional changes during the week and closing at 25¾d. in London.

COPPER.—Prices remain unchanged from those quoted last week. Lake copper, 18½c. Electrolytic in cakes, wirebars and ingots, 17 @ 17½c. Cathode, 16¾ @ 16¾d. Casting copper, 17c. nominal. The foreign market is still dominated by the difficulties between England and Transvaal. London is quoted, English tough, £78 15s. @ £79 5s. Best selected, £80 5s. @ £80 15s. India sheets, £83 @ £83 10s.

Answers to Correspondents.

ENGINEER.—(1) Yes; you have a good field provided you can enlist capital. (2) Undoubtedly, none better. About middle or end of June.

BLACKLOCK.—(1) We referred to this in our last number in answer to Manchester. (2) Shares have advanced; we, however, don't look for a big thing in this direction. (3) Hold, is our advice; we believe you will come out alright.

W. S. LONDON.—(1) Yes; the Klondike is indisputably the richest diggings ever known. We have incontestable proof of its richness. (2) If you are prepared to rough it and have some capital, at least, we know of no other country where a manly man would meet with greater encouragement. (3) We would stake our reputation on it. (4) Articles in the last three numbers of this journal will interest you.

L., ENGLAND.—(1) The Company you refer to is an English company operating in the Yukon, write the secretary; we cannot say. (2) Too slow as a rule, and up till now it seems to us incompetent.

SPECS.—We have an article re Atlin in this issue which is perfectly reliable.

SAROSIFANE.—(1) The property you speak of is worked by a B. C. company. (2) We don't know for certain, but we ascertain for you.

BRADFORD.—We beg to dispel the idea you have.—British Columbia mining properties have never been boomed, nor have they, as you seem to think, proved failures in the main; quite the reverse. Where ever good prospects have had men to deal with them, they have been as encouraged as elsewhere, certainly money and enterprise is necessary, and they usually get their reward when in competent hands.

British Columbia Review.

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223 Carrall St., Vancouver, B. C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. WANTED.—Six Gentlemen, or less to form a Syndicate to develop good Mining Prospects. Work done sufficient to show the character of the property. Fullest particulars and investigation courted. Half interest will be given for development. Apply to M. E., of this journal.