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## **MINING DIRECTORS AS HUMOURISTS**

The following is the report of the board of directors of the No.1 North Oriental and Glanmire Gold Mining Company in Queensland.

Gentlemen, – We have much pleasure in submitting to you our initial half-yearly report. It is with feelings of pride we can state that we have now emerged from our former chrysalis state into that of a full-blown company, the process carrying with it its attendant liabilities and increased expenditure. But with all the additional burden we are proud to record that the shareholders have faced the music like men, and paid the calls (which we were unfortunately called upon to make) with religious regularity (or irregularity). We started the half-year with nothing – we end it in debt, therefore it is a matter for congratulation that we have chosen a banker who will allow us a free leg...

The work carried on has been purely of a prospecting nature and the philanthropic motive which prompted you to develop the eastern ground at such a depths cannot be too highly commented upon. We do not know whether you thoroughly realise the important hearing on the future of Gympie the prosecution of this work has, but should a good payable reef be struck (which we trust, believe, anticipate, and hope will be the case) your names will be handed down to posterity as public benefactors – and millionaires. Realising the importance of this quest for the precious metal which some of us are ready to almost sell our souls for, your directors thought it advisable to deal a little in the occult art – to wit, the divining rod. The services of a distinguished professor were obtained, and on traversing your ground he had not gone far when the mystic rod began to wobble and and be attracted in a marked degree to Mother Earth. This continued for a little while, the professor's face being a study all the time. When he spoke it was with suppressed excitement, but the words that fell from his lips were like unto an oasis in the desert to a thirsty man; his remarks were concentrated into one sentence: "Jumping Jehosophat! There's a reef here fully 40 feet wide, and highly auriferous."

We shall endeavour to break into it gently, for otherwise the sudden shock might be fatal to some expectant ones...

Your Directors

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