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The CANADIAN MINING REVIEW *is devoted to the opening up of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, and its publishers will be thankful for any encouragement they may receive at the hands of those who are interested in its speedy development.*

Visitors from the mining districts as well as others interested in Canadian Mineral Lands are cordially invited to call at our office.

Mining news and reports of new discoveries of mineral deposits are solicited.

All matter for publication in the REVIEW *should be received at the office not later than the 20th of the month.*

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Many of our readers will regret to learn of the death of Mr. James W. Lynch, superintendent of the Derry Phosphate Mines, near Buckingham, Que. The deceased gentleman, who was favorably regarded in mining circles, passed away at Derry, on Thursday, 25th November, from an attack of inflamation of the lungs.

We learn that Mr. E. Gilpin, Inspector of Mines, succeeds the late Mr. John Kelly as Deputy Commissioner of Mines for the Province of Nova Scotia. The new appointment, and the amalgamation of the two offices thus provided, is very favorably received in mining circles throughout the province.

At the meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, held last month in London, Eng., it was stated in one of the papers read, that a small amount of chromium added to steel renders that metal much harder and improves it for a variety of purposes. If this important fact be universally recognised it will undoubtedly create an increased demand for chromic iron, of which, as our readers know, there are large deposits in the Province of Quebec. Several large blocks of this metal were on exhibition at the Mineral Court of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

Messrs. Foster and Gregory, the gentlemen appointed by the Royal Commission to report on the minerals and rocks shewn at the Colonial Exhibition, have completed their examination of the Canadian exhibit. Mr. Foster, who is Her Majesty's inspector of mines for North Wales, reports particularly on the ores, building stones, and other minerals of economic importance, and we learn that he expresses himself much pleased with the extent and excellence of the collection brought together by our geological survey. Particular mention is made of the large series of silver ores from the Port Arthur district, many of which are very rich, and he expresses the opinion that as that country is opened up, it will become one of the most important mining districts in the Dominion.

It will be remembered that several specimens of chromic Iron, from the Canadian Mineral Court, at the Colonial Exhibition, were recently tested by an English firm with a view to importation. The report on these samples, says the *Canadian Gazette*, "shows that some of the ore is sufficiently rich to suit the requirements of manufacturers in Great Britain, while in the case of other samples it is expected that either by a process of careful selection, or by striking new ground, an ore may be obtained of sufficient richness to be profitably exported. The chromic iron ore occurs in the same districts as the asbestos, which of late years has been so extensively mined. The Quebec Central railway has recently made the deposits much more accessible than formerly. It may be remembered that many years ago a trial shipment, consisting of ten tons of the ore, was made to England, but it was then found to be too poor in chromic oxide to be profitably handled."

The action of coal dust in bringing about colliery explosions, was very clearly explained by Herr Nasse in his address to a recent meeting of German mining engineers at Düsseld. From experiments it appears that risk of explosion depends upon four circumstances and conditions, each of which affect the explosiveness of the air in a large degree. These are (1) the quantity and degree of firmness of the dust, circumstances that depend upon the hardness and the structure of the coal; (2) its chemical constitution; (3) the quantity of carbonated hydrogen present; and (4) the degree of moisture in the dust. The last is a matter of great importance, and demands careful attention. It is a variable condition in the same mine; for dust may be very dry in one part of the workings and saturated with moisture in another. Also, the moisture contained in the coal-seam may be much less in one mine, or in one locality, than in another; so that great variations in the dryness of the dust at the working faces may be observed. Generally, the seams that do not reach the surface are much drier than those that crop out. The former usually contain about 4 per cent. of water; the latter, from 9 to 15 per cent. Herr Nasse believes watering to be desirable, and where shot-firing is carried on, necessary. But he admits that practical difficulties have hitherto stopped the way against a general adoption of this precautionary measure. He thinks that the subject should receive more attention from mining engineers.

The following interesting item, on the state of the Nova Scotian coal trade, appears in a recent issue of the *Canadian Trade Review*. "When we had a reciprocity treaty with the United States, the Americans were the principal purchasers of Nova Scotia coal. In 1865 and 1866, out of an average of 595,000 tons mined, about three-fourths of the entire product went across the border. After the abrogation of the treaty, the American import duty upon bituminous coal of course interfered with the sales to the United States, and gradually those sales have decreased, until last year the Americans took but 34,000 tons, only a thirty-eighth part of the entire product. We then protected our coal miners, and the manufacturing industries. The first movement gave the miners an extended home market, the second increased the consumption and consequently the demand for coal. Now, instead of mining only 595,000 tons annually as in 1886, or 700,000 tons as between 1871 and 1880, the Nova Scotia output had reached 1,352,000 tons, at which it stood in the year 1885. Of this quantity Nova Scotia, owing in part to the increased demand for manufacturing purposes, used 450,000 tons, while New Brunswick took 150,000. The Upper Provinces took 493,000, and the remainder was taken by Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the West Indies. The total sales of Nova Scotia coal in 1879 reached 688,624 tons. The total sales in 1885 reached 1,250,000. and the output 1,350,000. Thus the business has doubled since 1879. The total sales to Ontario and Quebec in 1881, two years after the introduction of the National Policy, were 268,000 tons. The total sales to the same provinces in 1885 were 493,000 tons, an increase of not quite one hundred per cent. in five years.

At the present time, writes the *Chicago Mining Review*, there is occasional enquiry concerning the probable exhaustion of our coal, oil and gas fields. The assumption generally being that these supplies were created ages ago, and stored up in reservoirs, in which they are now discovered to meet the requirements of the present time. Some years ago the problem of the future supply of coal assumed large proportions and was considered with much anxiety. The discovery of petroleum and its adaptation to use as fuel, removed and destroyed much of the interest connected with the discussion of the question of supply. As attention was turned to the supply of oil, and its outlines were beginning to be definitely established in the minds of speculative investigators, the value and importance of the wide-spread discoveries of natural gas still farther removed the date of the exhaustion of our fuel supply. At the present time there is much difference of opinion concerning the permanence of the supply of natural gas; many holding that it has been collected in reservoirs, which, when depleted can never be refilled, hence predict a short season of spasmodic activity in the life of this new agent, which is already becoming an important factor in the industrial history and advancement of the present time. As we have stated, much of the difficulty and confusion comes from a lack of definite