

# BY SLEIGH TO MONTAGU AND WAYERLEY GOLD DISTRICTS AND ROUND BEDFORD BASIN TO HALIFAX.

Leaving Halifax at 3 p. m. on Saturday last in one of Ainsley's nattiest cutters, we crossed the ferry to Dartmouth in the face of the keen wind, and then, tucking the warm robes around us, started our horse for Montagu at a fast trot.

It was cold but bright and the merry jingle of the bells, the swiftly gliding sleigh and the exhilarating atmosphere roused our spirits and sent the blood tingling through our veins.

The sleighing was superb, and in pleasant converse with our jelly companion, we rapidly left the miles behind us, and were at Montagu almost before we knew it.

Driving to the headquarters of The Nova Scotia Gold Mines, Limited, on the

## ANNAND MINE,

we met the manager, Capt. Thomas, the accountant, Mr. Melvin, the assayer, Mr. Sanders, and Clancy, most valuable of valets, who is equally at home either in playing a solo on the cornet or broiling chops for lunch.

Captain Thomas first took us over the mill building, where we noted that all was ship-shape and where there are now two Australian percussion tables to treat the tailings. There were several minor improvements made since our last visit, the principal being in the furnace of the boiler, which has been reconstructed so as to economize fuel. The captain is a so carefully testing the steaming qualities of different coals with the view of purchasing the article proved to give the best returns. The batteries were not working, and we passed on to the

## ASSAY OFFICE.

Here space was being economized by the rebuilding of the assay furnace, and assaying was consequently not underway.

The trestle connecting the main or vertical shaft with the mill has been completed, and the tramway laid.

From the assay office we walked over to the vertical shaft, and ascended the stairs of the very substantial deck head to the level of the tramway. Here the great quantity of rock that has been removed in straightening the shaft could be judged, the piles of whin rock having reached the level of the shaft opening.

Work is now confined to the development of the mine below ground and to miling the ore, and it is beneath the surface that there is most to see.

Two underground drifts are being extended by contract in both directions (east and west) on the course of the Annand lead. From what can be ascertained the east drift is developing a section of good payable ground, which will be taken away when the vertical shaft is completed. The latter shaft is now finished to a depth of 227 feet, and it is hoped to have the same soon completed to the number one level, 260 feet from the surface.

The cage in this shaft will be run on wire rope guides, a novelty in this country, and the wire rope for the purpose, which is specially manufactured, has to be imported from England.

A cross cut has been started and driven north thirty feet from the vertical shaft towards the twin lead, and will probably cut that lead by the time the shaft is completed, giving a great ore ground to work out.

By the sacrifice of proper mining system and at the expense of the future operating of the mine the Captain could now send a lot of very rich quartz to the surface, but this he will reach from below when the second level is driven, and it will then be mined on the over-hand system more economically and with better results. The returns of this mine for November were 76 ounces of gold, and for December 81 ounces 10 dwts.

From the Annand mine we drove to the upper road and had a look at the

## NISSEN MILL,

on the Salisbury Company's property. This was not yet running, as the connections were only being made between the boiler, engine and battery. We found Mr. Nissen, his son and Henry Archibald, his assistant, hard at work, and after again glancing over this model mill, which we have described in a former issue of the Critic, we drove on to the

## SYMON-KATE MINE,

and were fortunate enough to meet Mr. Lucius Boyd, the Consulting Engineer, as he was closing his office. We found on entering at his cordial invitation that his combined dwelling and office was delightfully cosy, and that the cheerful warmth dispensed by a base burning stove (conspicuous by its absence on our last visit) was most comforting. After glancing again over his fine mineral collection we drove with him to the works, a short distance away, and under his guidance had a look around.

Since our last visit a steam winch, which Mr. Boyd secured for a mere song, has been placed in position and does the hoisting and lowering in the main shaft and does it well. The nine inch pump is in position and works like a charm. The pump bob is worked by a large geared wheel connected with the engine, and the length of stroke of the pump may be increased or diminished by simply changing the connection from the middle to the outer diameter of the wheel. An auxiliary pump of similar size has been placed in the shaft, and this keeps the water down while the nine inch pump is being lowered as the work progresses.

The main shaft on the Skerry lead is being rapidly timbered and straightened, and, best of all, very rich quartz has been discovered in the levels now being driven. The engine is in love with the boiler at the works, as it is a great steamer and very small consumer of fuel.

It was quite dark before we again got underway, but the sleighing was perfect, and in an hour we were at Beech's at Waverley. We were happy to find that Beech, who had been very ill and still confined to his room, was

fast recovering. A hearty dinner and a smoke put us in good humor for our drive of fifteen miles by way of Bedford to Halifax, and an hour before midnight the horse was in his stable and we in our beds, after one of the pleasantest sleigh drives we had ever enjoyed.

The following are the official gold returns so far received at the Mines Office for December, 1892:—

District.	Mill.	Tons quartz crushed.	Yield of gold, ounces.
Sherbrooke.....	Goldenville.....	29	3½
Salmon River .....	Dufferin Gold Mine	400	110
Oldham.....	O dham Gold Co.....	163	183½
Caribou .....	Herbert Dixon .....	50	73
Uniacco .....	Eastville.....	16	163
Lake Catcha.....	Oxford ..	215	76½
Stormont.....	Antigonish Co.....	305	166
Malaga .....	Malaga Co .....	106	109

CARIBOU.—The District never looked more flourishing than at the present time. There are 26 teams hauling cordwood. Mr. Dixon, of the Dixon-Putman, has contracted for 1000 cords. Mr. Stuart, of the Truro "Bonanza" mine, has contracted for 1,200 cords, and says he will take 2,000. Mr. B. C. Wilson has contracted for 500 for the Old Lake Lodge Mine. From the main road into the mines (7 miles) the other day, I met no less than 13 teams, not wood teams, but country teams, produce, etc. Mr. Dixon said to me lately: "I have been here some 7 years and my books show I have paid out for labor and supplies \$75,000, and yet we have a fine 'divy' left." The Dixon Putman is looking about as usual. The Truro people are pushing their main shaft to cut the rich strike at greater depths. It Wright has opened a small but very promising 'vein' on the Cashey. A most prosperous summer is assured for this old district.

"Miner" will please send his name in confidence.

THE COLLIERIES IN THE DEAL.—*Facts About the Mines and the Americans Interested in Them.*—Many Americans were previously interested in these mines, and a few facts about each colliery will not be without interest just now. The Caledonia company has a capital of \$500,000, owns two square miles of area employs 400 men and has an output of 150,000 tons. Its directors are J. W. Emery, of Portsmouth, N. H., president, Gardiner G. Hubbard, Washington, D. C. J. H. Converse, Cambridge, Mass., and David McKeen, M. P., managing director. The General Mining Association, the original assigns of the Duke of York, was organized in 1825. Its capital is \$1,000,000, with a reserve fund of \$125,000. It employs 700 hands, and ships 200,000 tons a year. Their main seam is five feet thick, and their coal worth \$1 a ton more than any other coal in the province. The workings extend for a couple of miles out under the sea from the side of the harbour at North Sydney. This company owns \$500,000 in shares in the Old Bridgeport and in the Low Point, Lingan & Barrasois company (the Victoria mines). The profits of this company average \$50,000 a year. Among the directors are Sir Charles Tupper, Canadian high commissioner to England, and Col. W. S. Cunard of the Cunard steamship line. The Glace Bay mining company was the last to enter the deal, and got the best price of any. Frank Jones, of Portsmouth, N. H., the Misses Head, Hon. Levi Woodbury, Sir Richard Cartwright, ex-Gov. Robinson and Campbell of Ontario, and other well known people are owners of this property. But the controlling spirit, E. P. Archibald and James R. Lithgow, thought it an unpatriotic thing to sell out to an American syndicate; that to give a Boston syndicate a monopoly of the Cape Breton mines would be disastrous to Canadian policy and interests, and therefore held out until they found themselves in danger of being left out in the cold with the thermometer below zero and then joined the deal. This company has a seam seventeen feet thick; claim to mine the best gas coal in the province, and has paid dividends from 8 to 25 per cent on a paid-up capital of \$640,000. The nominal capital of the Gowrie mines is \$400,000, but it is owned by the Archibald family, of which the late Sir Edward Archibald, for a quarter of a century British consul general of New York, was the chief. Its output is 150,000 tons, and its underground workings comprise an area of 10 miles. The International mine, with a capital of \$200,000 and a bonded indebtedness of \$200,000, has an area of five square miles, employs 400 hands has an output of 125,000 tons, and is owned by Sir Donald Smith, one of the leading spirits of the Canadian Pacific railway, and the Bank of Montreal, and other Montreal associates. The Low Point, Barrasois & Lingan Company is owned by the German Mining Association, has a lease of 27 miles of areas, and has an output of 100,000 tons a year. The Sydney & Louisburg company has a paid up capital of \$1,500,000 held exclusively in England, holds a lease of 16 square miles, with an output of 150,000 tons a year. A large amount of money has been sunk in this company, but of late years it has paid its preference shareholders 10 per cent dividends.—*St. John Gazette.*

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## NOTICE.

The first General Meeting of the Stockholders of The Halifax Asbestos Company, Limited, will be held at the rooms of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, 129 Hollis St., Halifax, on Monday, February 13th, 1893, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

H. M. WYLDE,  
Halifax, 18th Jan. '93. Secy