

CHAPTER XXVI

Technieal training for a prospector.

We have in that admirable institution, the Technical College at Halifax, an opportunity of turning out skilled workmen never before afforded the province. Workers in many branches of industry even to tailoring and millinery have in the night classes done themselves and their teachers credit.

Could prospectors also benefit by the instruction given at this school, gold mining would again become an important industry in Nova Scotia, for the prospector is the pioneer in this line. His importance to the industry has always been underestimated but it may be laid down as an axiom, "no prospectors, no mines." Once found, a good mine is able to help itself. The starting of new industries is very important to the progress of the country. Their neglect means the decline of prosperity and population, and in this neglect we Nova Scotians encourage emigration and general stagnation in business. The aiding of new industries pays the province better than the support of old ones. Therefore the establishing of a night class for prospectors would certainly benefit the province at large, could interest enough be aroused to collect a class.

The training necessary for a prospector, while it need only be rudimentary in some particulars, should be as complete in local Structural and Glacial Geology as it is possible to have it. While arithmetic is necessary, he needs algebra about as much as a horse needs to know the Latin name for oats.

He should be able to recognize any mineral that has been or may be found in the gold fields, but he does not need to get into a thorough study of the "ites" from Abriachanite" to Zonochlorite."

Next to Structural and Glacial Geology in importance comes a practical knowledge of manual labor, viz—how to sink pits, drive tunnels, timbering, panning, and how to get \$2.00 worth of work out of a man for \$1.50.

Structural Geology is probably the most important part of the prospectors studies and would include much of the matter given in chapters 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10, but much more condensed. The instruction should begin with the assistance of maps, plans, sections and models. The subject may be treated in the following order.

1. General Geology. 2. Geology of the Nova Scotia