

burg manufacturer is amply protected by the cost of laying down foreign goods in that city. He needs no tariff wall. It is shown also that the man with a family to support bears a burden of taxation out of all proportion to that borne by the bachelor. "It would be difficult," continues the evidence, "to conceive a more foolish and iniquitous system of taxation for a new country in need of white population."

The parallel between Canada and South Africa holds in a general sense. In detail, the circumstances of the two Dominions are widely divergent. The mining industry of the Rand is highly organized. Costs are so closely controlled that the immediate effect of extraordinary charges can be readily traced. The large gold mines are placed upon an industrial basis. Reserves are estimated more exactly than is possible in less favoured regions, and expenditure is carefully governed by engineering factors. Briefly, South Africa is pre-eminently a mining region. In agriculture and in manufacturing it has made but slight progress.

In contrast, Canada's chief industry is agriculture. But Canada also has large lumbering, mining, manufacturing, and fishing interests. Directly and indirectly Canadian manufacturers are enormously subsidized. Tariffs, bonuses, special subsidies, and a score of equally expensive devices aid the manufacturer. The consumer pays for all. Naturally the agriculturist, the lumberman, and the miner are bled.

The Johannesburg Daily Mail quotes from Mr. J. J. Harpell's book, "Canadian National Economy," a paragraph tracing the decline of Canada's gold output to the increased cost of living. Whilst we admit freely that in a country like South Africa, where gold mining has attained a degree of solidarity, any addition to living expenses will react at once upon the industry, we contend that Canadian gold mining has never reached the stage where the cost of living has become a serious factor. The impression that the Yukon, for instance, would still be producing on its old scale had it not been for inflated costs is entirely beside the point. Every new Canadian mining camp goes through a period of high prices; and each camp must ultimately be worked by large corporations on its own merits.

We do not deny that the cost of living is a problem in mining as in all other activities. But it does not become a problem in precious metal mining until certain other elements have had full play. The Yukon is thriving and probably will continue to thrive. Deserted gold mines are being re-opened in Nova Scotia and Ontario. If the cost of living was prohibitory ten years ago it is certainly much more so now. Yet never has there been more activity than at present. The volume of output is principally a function of the generosity of nature.

#### THE FLOODING OF THE PORT HOOD COLLIERY

From the accounts available at the time of writing there seems to be no doubt that the Port Hood Col-

liery has been inundated by water from the ocean entering through a break in the submarine cover. Sufficient particulars are, however, not as yet available to enable an opinion to be formed as to the cause of the inundation and the possibility of the cause having been preventable.

The Port Hood colliery has had many vicissitudes, and it has probably never made any money for its owners. The first attempt to mine coal at Port Hood was made in 1865 by the Cape Breton Mining Company, who drove a slope from the crop of the six feet seam; but operations were suspended in 1867.

The Port Hood mine at the present time has a main slope extending 2,800 feet from the surface at an angle of 27 degrees. The company operating is the Port Hood and Richmond Coal & Railway Company, and for some time past the bondholders have been in possession, and have made a very determined effort to make the mine pay. A new compressor was recently installed and coal-cutting machines were put to work underground. One difficulty of coal mining on the Inverness shore is the lack of suitable shipping ports, and the long drift-ice season, requiring the banking of large quantities of coal in the winter, which in its turn means the tying up of large sums of capital. During the summer the men worked irregularly, preferring to find employment on a breakwater which the Government have been constructing for many years to preserve the harbour of Port Hood. The unfortunate flooding of the mine will prove a ruinous blow to the town of Port Hood, and is greatly to be regretted.

The Inverness coalfield seems to have been particularly unfortunate, both in its financial aspects and its natural features. There can be little doubt that the detached basins of Chimney Corner, Broad Cove, Mabou, and Port Hood are all remnants of one great coalfield, which has been split up by folds of the strata and afterwards denuded, until nothing is left but the bare tips of the coal basins at the shore. Some of the seams have without doubt disappeared under the waters of the Atlantic; others are visible at low tide only, and all the time the sea is encroaching on what is left. In 1871 Mr. Richard Brown expressed the opinion that "immediate steps should be taken by the Government to ascertain the exact situation and economic value of every seam of coal in Inverness; because, owing to the rapid wearing away of the cliffs on a coast exposed to the heavy surf of the Gulf during the prevalent northwest winds, and to the combined action of severe frosts and rapid thaws, all vestiges of these valuable coal-seams will soon be entirely obliterated. In proof of this view it need only be stated that Seal Island, composed of carboniferous strata, which, beyond all doubt, was once connected with the mainland, is now separated from it by a channel two miles in width, the intervening land having been entirely swept away by the waves. It is evident, therefore, that a belt of coast, at least two