

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

WE claim that the character and extent of the circulation of *THE CANADIAN MINER* makes it as valuable a medium of advertising anything connected with mining, as any journal in Canada.

As is natural, just after the holidays, the sale of mining stocks is not as active as it was before. Nevertheless Mr. E. L. Sawyer disposed lately of many hundred thousand shares of the Eastern Mining Syndicate's stock.

WE have too many lawyers graduating. We hope that the gold mining development now proceeding will tempt many young men inclined to enter the legal profession, in which they will make but a precarious living, to devote a little attention to the study of practical mining.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to put on an additional line of steamboats to ply between Collingwood and Port Arthur to meet the expected rush next summer of people for the gold fields of North-Western Ontario. A considerable portion of Toronto's population will go if the price is made low enough.

MR. J. D. LEWEN, M.E., manager of the Little Bess, has received a commission from London and Paris capitalists to examine and report on several mining properties in the Lake of the Woods and Seine River districts. Mr. Lewen is regarded as a thoroughly practical miner, and has had large experience in South America, Mexico and California.

AN American staying at one of our leading city hotels noticed the *CANADIAN MINER* stock bulletin hanging in the reading room. After looking at it for some time, he was heard to say: "Well, Canadians have wakened up at last. They will soon know the importance of the great mineral wealth of their country. Mining has done more, so far as profit on each dollar is concerned, to increase the wealth of the United States than has anything else."

THERE is some talk in this city of forming a Miners' Club, where mining men and those interested otherwise in mines may meet and discuss one with another mining affairs. The idea appears to be a good one. There are numbers of strangers visiting the city for the purpose of looking into our mining matters with a view to investment. Such a club would be of value in making them acquainted with our mining men, and of facilitating their work of inquiry and comparison.

WE are credibly informed that a few nights ago, at a meeting held in connection with one of our city churches, the buying of mining stock came up for discussion, and the minister, being curious to know how many of his flock had invested in mining stocks, asked all those who had not invested to hold up their hands. There was only one who responded to the request. She was at once questioned about her exceptional position, and her reply was that she had not bought stock because she had not the money to do so.

THE facts as to the large extent to which mining operations have been carried, and are being carried in the Lake of the Woods gold field, given in the present issue by Mr. R.

H. Ahn, of Rat Portage, will be a revelation to some of our readers. The activity manifested in development and the preparations made for extensive workings for next summer are encouraging. The mines around the Lake of the Woods district employ at present from 30 to 60 men in each mine. A large number of mines are now to be opened and will give employment to many hundreds more.

THE mining stock market at present is marked by an attitude of great caution on the part of investors. Buyers and people wishing or solicited to buy are seeking information from every available source. We have already had several of such inquiries, and it is almost superfluous to say that we shall always endeavor to give unbiased opinions to inquirers. There appears to be a very considerable amount of capital awaiting the opportunity for profitable investment in enterprises which afford reasonably good security for returns. Gold mines, of course, benefit investors on account of the very large returns they sometimes yield, but in the present mood of our commercial centres mine owners and mining companies must really have something to show that justifies any claims they make on behalf of any mining property, or their chance of enlisting capital to any large extent, in Toronto and other of the larger cities, is not great.

THE very limited spare capital of Canada is wholly inadequate to overtake the task of developing the extraordinary richness of the gold and silver fields of the country. What we have cannot be withdrawn, however profitable such withdrawal might be to individuals, from other enterprises, without serious temporary injury to business, an injury which would react on our mining industry unfavorably. We wish that Canadians could own their own mines and derive the profits that accrue from them. But the undertaking is too large. We need British and foreign capital for our mines. Canadians are generally, with few exceptions, sellers of the mines. The money received from selling a prospect is added to the country's wealth and develops industry in general. Besides, often the prospector or developer retains an interest in his property and shares in the dividends. What we need now is rapid development.

THE *Toronto Evening Telegram* is, without a doubt, a "bear" on mining stocks. While wholesome adverse criticism is to be highly commended, and is necessary wherever unwonted interest in gold or silver mining exists, adverse criticism may bear so undue a proportion to favorable notice of what is sound in the business, that the effect on the public mind may be to prejudice many against what is or may be distinctly to their benefit and that of the country at large. A general onslaught on mining stocks is not unlikely, yes, is almost certain to injure worthy concerns, and might be unfortunate for people doing an honest mining business. General condemnation in this case is merely wordiness, and the reader can take it for what it is worth, or what it can prove. We commend to the *Telegram* Pope's lines, very fitting in its present attitude:

"Launch not beyond your depth, but be discreet
To mark the place where sense and dullness meet."

IN Rat Portage the value of property is advancing by bounds. No doubt the mineral development in the Lake of the Woods country and the inrush of people certain to take place in the spring justifies a large increase in the value of real estate. A "boom" seems im-

Colorado and the western group are barren regions, and the South African fields not very much better, and far from populated regions, while British Columbia has great forests, considerable agricultural and grazing lands, a moderate and favorable climate, and is not very far from the crowded Eastern America. If British Columbia can have a million of a population in ten years, or about ten times its white population in 1891, what may not the free-milling regions of northern and north-western Ontario look forward to in the same time? The Sultana, worth over a million dollars already, seems to be but the first developed of many more gold mines equally rich, if not richer—and development and equipment have proceeded almost as far here as in British Columbia, and nearly all within a year or two. We look for a million more to be added to our population in Ontario through development of its northern mineral resources alone, but would be inclined to allow at least a year over the ten Mr. Begg gives his province before the figure is reached. We should really be moderate in our expectations. Mr. Begg, however, may be right. Such things do happen, especially where a variety of industries may be carried on under favorable conditions.

MORAL BENEFIT OF GOLD MINING.

GOLD mining is, in a sense, more moral than the ordinary merchant's calling. In the latter there is the struggle to get ahead of another by competition which leads oftentimes to bankruptcy to say nothing of the moral degradation involved in the process. In gold mining the element of competition, at least, is absent. The success of your neighbor's gold mine does not provoke rivalry. It actually enhances the value of your own. Gold is sold at a uniform price; it is not like haberdashery or grocers' wares, in this respect. There is a wild thirst for gold, but in these days it is the man who is in business, or out of it, but trying to be in, who suffers from it most. Gold miners are not rivals. They are noted for being friends, except when they fear some one else may jump their claim. A sermon on the comparative morality of gold mining is now in order. It would be a "timely topic" for several of our city churches.

GOLD mining will be a national stimulus to our new country. It will do much to supply the lack of courage in commercial enterprise, which has marked the past. Gold mining on a large scale has come to stay with us, and we will be none the worse, so long as quieter interests, such as agriculture, are not neglected. If gold mining should attract to it tens of thousands of those who leave our farms to take to the more-risky-than-gold-mining, petty trading of our towns and cities, it will be a gain all around. We have a plethora of so-called business men, who live largely on trampling down others in fierce and ignoble competition. If many of our small merchants sell out, which they can, and with due forethought transfer themselves to occupations which develop our natural resources, they and the country will be the gainers.