

MINING—Continued.

EAST RIVER IRON MINES.—At a meeting of the New Glasgow Town Council held on Tuesday evening, two important propositions came up before our city fathers. The one related to a water supply for the Town, and the other was a communication from Mr. John McDougald, M. P., relating to the development of the East River Iron Mines. The proposal is as follows:—

Mr. James H. Bartlett of Montreal, has secured the Iron Ore area rights and charter of the Pictou Coal and Iron Company.

The printed Report herewith gives particulars respecting the location of the areas, railway lines, &c.

It is proposed to raise the necessary capital to commence the manufacture of pig iron, and for this purpose to erect a blast furnace with plant, &c., capable of producing 25,000 to 30,000 tons per annum, and also to build a branch railway from the Intercolonial Railway to the iron mines.

The site of the blast furnace is not settled upon but will be in the most convenient place available on the line of the Intercolonial railway.

Mr. Bartlett has been able to make arrangements with responsible parties for the sale of the entire product of the furnace, and hopes with the aid of a bonus of about \$50,000 from the towns of Pictou and New Glasgow, and the county of Pictou, to raise the capital required for the works and the railway.

Exemption of the works and railways from taxes will be required. (Dwellings, etc., to be taxed.)

Without the consent of the towns of Pictou and New Glasgow to join the county in granting this subsidy, it is not likely the County Council would agree to move in the matter.

Will the towns agree to contribute their proportion of about \$50,000 bonus with the county, and to what amount?

The bonus would not require to be paid until the works and railway were in operation, and \$400,000 *bona fide* expended in the undertaking—or possibly the bonus might be arranged in this way: The bonus to be ten per cent of the company's *bona fide* expenditure in the railway and works, but not to exceed \$50,000.

The bonus could probably be arranged by sale of bonds bearing 5 per cent interest.

\$4000 per annum will pay off the interest and principal on \$50,000 bonds in about twenty years. The assessed valuation of county and towns is over \$4,000,000 upon which a rate of 10 cents per \$100,000 will yield \$4,000.—*Eastern Chronicle*.

Diamonds have been discovered in the Doughnut mine in Klio Island. The New England miners hate to go back on the doughnut but the name of that mine will have to be changed if its diamonds are to be absolved from a suspicion of paste.

WHERE OUR SODA COMES FROM.—Along the Peruvian coast, stretching for hundreds of miles, are the famous beds of nitrate of soda, which purified is saltpetre. These deposits, more profitable than silver or guano, were discovered accidentally by a vagrant Englishman named George Smith, but were not operated to any extent until recent years. Now, nitrate, having been found a valuable component of a hundred chemical forms, is in demand the world over, and millions of dollars' worth is shipped from the ports along the coast annually. Before its value was fairly known, a number of far sighted men located "claims" after the fashion in vogue in mining camps everywhere, and then the government stepped in and forbade any further pre-emption. But the original locations cover enough of the deposit to supply the market for a century or two, and to keep up prices they have formed a pool, a monopoly combined, under which they charge from two to three dollars per cwt. for what cost them about fifteen cents. There is apparently no limit to the stuff, the bed stretching up the coast for 300 or 500 miles.

VICTORIA (AUSTRALIA) GOLD FIELD.—The yield of this field is officially reported for the second quarter of 1885 at 185,037 ozs. 15 dwts. 10 grs., as against 192,448 ozs. 11 dwts. 15 grs. for the March quarter, and making the half year's product 377,476 ozs. 7 dwts. 1 gr. The product for the half year may be set down at \$5,549,000.

The coal, which has hitherto been the chief source of power, probably represents the product of five or six million years.

The company sinking a coal shaft at Sydney, Ill., has reached a seven foot vein of coal. This is the first shaft in Champaign County.

Russian coal, especially anthracite, is found in apparently inexhaustible quantities, and of qualities which promise the best results when mined deeper.

California from 1849 to 1862, produced about \$700,000,000 in gold.

The Stillwater Mining Company, capital \$800,000, is the latest Montana mining enterprise. It is to open a 65 per cent. copper mine 12 miles from Cooke City.

Up to the end of 1884 the total amount paid in dividends by American gold mining companies was about \$16,750,000, silver mining companies, fully \$14,000,000, and by silver and lead mining companies over \$14,000,000. The aggregate of the copper mining dividends to the same date exceeded \$24,000,000.

MINING.

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The Government of Nova Scotia having decided to make an Exhibit of the Economic Minerals of this Province at the COLONIAL EXHIBITION to be held in London G. B., next Spring, all parties desirous of exhibiting specimens of our minerals are requested to communicate with the Department of Mines without delay in order of the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines.

E. GILPIN, Jr.,
Inspector of Mines.
Halifax, Dec. 9, 1885.

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