

formed by men who are not in charge of any portion of the mine it can only be regarded as an unnecessary and vexatious addition to the burden of the mine owner, and is calculated to harass and hinder trade. It is not perhaps surprising that the *Trades Journal* should have failed altogether both to understand the proposals and to comprehend the drift of the suggestions made for remedying this state of things, but the argument set forth by the member who proposed the repeal of these clauses is both exhaustive and weighty. Some of his reasons have been here given above and the contention that he was beginning at the "wrong end" by proposing certificates for the chief officers first involves the execution of a mental *volte face* which we should have thought would have been beyond even the capacity of the *Trades Journal*; for this is the first time we have ever heard it argued that the proper way to secure discipline and good management is to license the subordinates and not the superior officers. There is another phase of this question which requires passing comment. Until 1891 a certificate granted by the Secretary of State of the Home Department in England as the result of an examination into the competency of a first-class colliery manager was accepted as of equal value in this country, a course which would seem to us perfectly fair and reasonable, not only because the demands made upon a colliery manager in the Old Country are more exigent than here, but because in all other professions we similarly accept English certificates. This concession, however, to the wisdom of the mining law on the other side of the Atlantic was swept away by the drastic amendments already referred to, and the editor of the *Trades Journal* in the article under consideration has the bad taste not only to exult over this fact, but also flings round a taunt because some who hold English certificates have failed to secure the same credentials from a Nova Scotia board.

We venture to think that the less said about this the better, and as there may be a necessity to refer to it in the future, we will say nothing further now, but the closing remarks of our critic compel us to say that if so much importance is attached to the value of a certificate granted by the N. S. Board, and if the editor of the *Trades Journal* considers, as he states, that this certificate is almost a guarantee for the safety of the men, and if, as he suggests in the first paragraph of his article, he believes that the proposals of the Mining Society would tend to relax the laws and if he further believes, as he states, that such a change would be likely to conduce to an explosion "on a large scale," then it is a pity that a person of such influence that he is able to mutilate the Mining Laws at his sweet will, and of such keen observation that he can scent danger from afar, should not have taken care, in the interest of the class that he is so well paid to protect, that at least *one* question relating to explosions should have been asked in the examination for first class manager's certificates in this province; and that out of some forty questions at least more than one-fourth should have been of a practical character. This state of things, however, has elicited no protest from the champion of miners' safety, and he still affects to regard this examination as a supreme protection.

While we regret that the arduous and protracted labours of the legislative committee of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, should have failed to produce a satisfactory result the first time of asking, we are glad to be able to compliment them upon the many valuable suggestions for the improvement of our mining legislation embodied in their report.

Meanwhile, we commend to the careful consideration, not of violent partisans or self-constituted leaders, but of all reasonable thinking men, who desire to promote the greatest of Canadian industries whilst safeguarding the lives and interests of both workman and employers, the undue restrictions and unnecessary limitations which are still to be found both in the gold and coal mining sections of our laws, and when these are fully understood and appreciated we are satisfied that an intelligent public will demand, and a fair-minded government will consent to such amendment and consolidation as will meet the requirements of all parties.

Gold Mining in Nova Scotia in 1895.

The returns for both the Government year (ending Sept. 30th) and the calendar year (ending Dec. 31st) show that there has been a substantial increase in the amount of gold won in Nova Scotia during the past year. According to the blue book the yield has been 22,112 oz., 17 dwt., 21 grs., as against 18,402 oz., 16 dwt. and 12 grs. for 1894. From the returns furnished by Mr. W. H. Brown, of the Mines office, and printed in the REVIEW, the year ending December 31st shows a production of over 18,605 ozs. This would indicate that the closing three months of 1894 produced in excess of the closing quarter of 1895, which is borne out by examination of the returns, with the exception of the districts of Sherbrooke and Uniacke (showing slight gains) and Fifteen Mile Stream and Brookfield, the gains of the two last-named districts being enormous, and well keeping up the general average of the Province in spite of the universal falling off in the older districts.

The relative positions are not altered, whether the Government year or the calendar year is taken: Stormont leads as in 1894, followed by Brookfield, Caribou, Fifteen Mile Stream and Uniacke, with Sherbrooke, for the first time in many years, bringing up the list of totals of 2,000 ozs. or over. In the returns to end of September, only Stormont, Caribou, Fifteen Mile Stream and Uniacke exceed the 2,000 oz. mark, although Brookfield and Sherbrooke are less than 100 oz. from it, and in the three months since September Brookfield has added to her output so rapidly as to put her within 4 ozs. of the 3,000 mark for the calendar year.

The most noticeable feature of the returns is the enormous increase in tonnage crushed, being nearly double that of the year 1892, and fully 40 per cent. more than in 1894. In round numbers the tonnage for the Government year was 51,000 tons. This increase is due entirely to the superior character of the mills now in general use. It is less than seven years since the first modification of the old style Nova Scotia mill was first introduced, and less than five years (July, 1891) since the present general type was first introduced for continuous work in the district of Oldham. The steady average of the Richardson Company's mill in Stormont district would have been deemed impossible by the rank and file ten years ago.

The general average yield of the rock has been about the same as for 1894, being about \$7.00 per ton for the whole Province.

The Richardson mill above quoted is perhaps working the lowest grade rock (about \$3.00) that has been continuously worked either in, or outside of, Nova Scotia.

It is most encouraging to observe these signs and indications that at last Nova Scotia is awakening to the possibilities of her low grade ores, of which the Province has, in certain districts, an abundance.

There are many noteworthy items observed in looking through these records for the last few years, some of a very encouraging nature, as witness the revival of the Sherbrooke district, which has remained persistently idle since the collapse of its first boom in the seventies. One misses from the returns any mention of the once famous Dufferin or Salmon river mine, and notices the idleness of the former large producers in Oldham, Lake Catcha and Molega districts.

We predict a steady growth for Nova Scotia gold mines in 1896.

The meetings of the Ontario Mining Institute will be held at Toronto on the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday, 3rd and 4th March. The papers to be presented are: "The Value of Careful and Complete Analysis of Rocks and Minerals," by Dr. W. S. Goodwin, Kingston; "Ontario as a Mining Country," by Dr. A. P. Coleman, Toronto; "Mining in the Thunder Bay District, Ont.," by Peter McKellar, F.G.S.A., Fort William; and on "The Financial Aspect of Mining," by J. H. Chewitt, B.A. Sc., C.E., Toronto. The election of officers will take place on Wednesday evening.