

Christmas Presents  
for Gentlemen.

**FREEMAN ELLIOT,**  
163 HOLLIS STREET.

Gentlemen's Dressing Gowns  
all New Patterns.  
Smoking Jackets.  
Silk and Cashmere Mufflers.  
Silk Pocket Handkerchiefs.  
Linen Handkerchiefs.  
Gloves, Ties, Braces, Collars,  
Shirts, Umbrellas.

Large Stock to select from.

**MOIR, SON & CO.**  
Mammoth Works.

**CAKES & CONFECTIONERY**

FOR CHRISTMAS.

CANDY IS BEST WHEN FRESH.

In our six story Candy Factory we have  
seventy people making a full assortment,  
FRESH EVERY DAY.  
An immense variety of

Fancy Sugar Toys,  
CASSACQUES, BOY BONS, ETC

Be sure you get a supply of our CLEAR  
BARLEY SUGAR TOYS. The best candy  
for children.

**FINE CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY**  
A SPECIALTY.

OUR PLAIN AND FRUIT POUND CAKES

Are unrivalled for Richness and Flavor.

The Largest Variety!

The Best Goods!

Retail Store, Corner Argyle & Duke Sts.

**Globe Hotel,**

12 Buckingham Street,

HALIFAX, N. S.

**S**PECIAL rates for Commercial  
Travellers. Parties arriving  
by Train can take Horse Cars  
to door.

HARRIS L. WALLACE, PROP.

**YOU** can live at home, and make more  
money at work for us, than at any-  
thing else in this world. Capital  
not needed; you are started free.  
No salaries, all wages. Any one can do the work  
large earnings sure from first start. Costly outfit  
and terms free. Better not delay. Costs you nothing  
to send us your address and find out; if you  
are wise you will do so at once. H. HALLITT &  
Co., Portland, Maine.

**F. W. CHRISTIE,**

Member of the American Institute of Mining  
Engineers.

Gold Mining Properties Examined.

Reported on, and Titles Searched.

Information for Investors in Nova Scotia Gold  
Mines. Estimates obtained for Air Drills and Air  
Compressors for Mines and Quarries, and Steam  
Drills for Railroad Contracts.  
Reference—Commissioner of Mines for Nova Scotia  
Address Letter or Telegram, BEDFORD STA-  
TION, HALIFAX CO., NOVA SCOTIA.

**Furs, Furs, Furs.**

**COLEMAN & CO.**

Have completed their importation of

English and Canadian Furs.

Ladies' Alaska Seal Jackets,  
(London Dye.)

Ladies' Astrachan Jackets.

Ladies' Baltic Seal Walking  
Jackets.

Capes, Collars and Muffs in  
fashionable furs

Long Boas, in Bear, Blue Fox,  
Squirrel and other furs.

Fur Trimmings, Gloves, Mitts  
&c., &c.

Silk and Cashmere Dolmans,  
Fur Lined.

Children's Plush Jackets, Fur  
Lined.

Children's Furs of every de-  
scription.

—ALSO—

Gentlemen's Fur Capes, Gloves,  
Collars and Coats, Robes, &c.

**FURS ALTERED & REPAIRED**

AT

143 Granville Street.



OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC  
WORKS AND MINES.

**CHARITIES DEPARTMENT.**

**Tenders for Groceries and  
Meat.**

TENDERS will be received at this office  
until noon on WEDNESDAY, 21st INST.,  
for the supply of GROCERIES for Hospital  
for Insane and Victoria General Hospital for  
one year from 1st January, 1888.

Tenders will also be received same day and  
hour, for supply of MEAT for same institu-  
tions for ensuing 12 months.

Tenders to be in duplicate, sealed, marked  
on outside Tender for Groceries (or Meat),  
and addressed Hon. Commissioner of Public  
Works and Mines.

Forms of Tender and any further informa-  
tion required may be obtained on application  
at this office.

The lowest or any Tender will not neces-  
sarily be accepted.

By order,

R. T. MURRAY,

Secretary.

**FELIX GOURDEAU,**

QUEBEC,

**TANNER & CURRIER,**

Hides, Leather & Findings.

Always open to buy any quantity of Hides  
and Slaughtered Leather. Correspondence  
solicited.

**WM. J. HAMES,**

Corner Argyle and Sackville Sts.

HALIFAX.

DEALER IN

**Pork, Butter, &c.**

N. B.—Hams, Bacon and  
Sausages a Specialty.

Orders from the Country promptly filled.

## MINING.

In accordance with a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Nova Scotia Gold-Miners' Association the constitution and bye-laws have been engrossed and now lies in THE CRITIC office where parties qualified for membership will please call and enroll their names.

The first annual meeting will be held on February 3rd, 1888, when the election of regular officers for the year will take place, and when the dues of members become due and payable.

The next monthly meeting of the Association will be held at the Halifax Hotel on January 3rd next, 1888.

L. L. WADSWORTH,  
J. M. REID,  
JOHN ANDERSON,  
T. N. BAKER,  
JOHN MCGUIRE,  
Committee on membership.

NOVA SCOTIA GOLD MINES.—Gold-mining in Nova Scotia is now being conducted on the most economical basis, and the result is that very few failures have to be recorded.

In all cases where failures have occurred the cause may be traced either to carelessness in purchasing in the first instance, or to bad management. In some cases both causes were combined, and any kind of business would have been ruined if purchased and managed in the same manner. Cheap labor, abundant fuel, good water-power, accessibility of mining camps, and numerous other reasons, combined with the great value of our gold districts, make gold-mining one of the most important industries of the Province. Outside capitalists have in many instances invested heavily in our gold mines, and their success has been so great that they are even now preparing to invest on a still more extensive scale, and the coming year will almost certainly witness a large increase in the capital to develop our gold fields.

The majority of the capitalists interested in our gold mines are perfectly contented with the titles now given by the Government, but there is general dissatisfaction with the present Forfeiture Act, which is virtually inoperative. The owner of areas which have not been worked, upon receiving notice of forfeiture, has simply to surrender his old leases and immediately take out new ones, when the forfeiture proceedings are annulled.

Placing the responsibility of forfeiting areas on outside parties, instead of giving the Government the power to forfeit all areas on which the yearly returns for labor have not been made, is decidedly an error. The Province is in reality the heaviest loser, as thousands of areas are now held by speculators and yield no royalty, which in the hands of bona fide miners would undoubtedly return a large revenue.

A number of remedies have been proposed, but the one which seems to receive the sanction of practical mining men, and which should largely increase the Provincial revenues, is simple and most practicable. It is to do away with royalties altogether, and instead to charge a yearly rental on all areas held under lease. Non-payment of the yearly rental would at once forfeit the areas, and speculators would soon grow tired of paying rental on unworked areas, which would thus fall into the hands of active miners. Companies, by paying thirty or forty years rental in advance, could secure their properties for that length of time, and if from any cause they should be obliged to discontinue working for a time they would not be harassed by the uncertainties of the present Act.

Active mining should be encouraged, but under the Act, as it is at present, the reverse is the case. The men who invest their capital in opening up and working mines, have, the moment their properties become gold producers, to pay over a share of their profits to the Province in the shape of royalties. Speculators owning adjoining areas which they will not work, may have the value of their properties so enhanced by the active work of their neighbors, that they may be able to sell out and clear a fortune. Beyond the price of their leases, they pay nothing into the Government. This is most unfair to the active miner, and the injustice would be entirely avoided by the introduction of the rental system.

Before recommending such a radical change to the Government, it would be well to have the measure discussed in all its bearings, and the Nova Scotia Gold-Miners' Association might find in this question abundant material for debate.

Bright as are the prospects in gold-mining, it must be remembered that it takes very little to shake confidence in gold mines, and it therefore behooves all miners who have the true interests of the Province at heart, to discountenance by all means in their power attempts to palm off worthless mines on too confiding capitalists.

Capital is necessary in the development of our gold mines, and it has to be diverted in this direction against the strong opposition of the numerous gold-producing countries which are now found in all parts of the world. All these have active agents in the great centres of capital, and any reports detrimental to our gold mines are seized upon by them, and circulated to the discredit of Nova Scotian gold mines. Danger does not lie alone with speculative sharks and dishonest spiddis-men, but also from those honest, but misguided individuals, who imagine themselves "Heaven-born miners," and in their ignorance believe that a few rich specimens indicate a valuable gold mine. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and they often succeed in obtaining capital, which is generally squandered in the most foolish manner possible.

We have now a large number of thoroughly posted mining engineers and managers of gold mines in the Province, and capitalists would do well to consult them before purchasing gold-mining areas.