

MINING—Continued.

Mr. Editor.—

At last some one seems to have awakened from the sleep of Rip Van Winkle, but, unlike that gentleman, he has a full knowledge of the past and present evil of our mining system and the small amount of revenue flowing into our provincial exchequer from that source. I refer to the articles in your paper of January 8th and 15th. It certainly must dawn on those having charge of the public affairs of this Province that this policy of reaping where they have not sown must certainly work deeper and more lasting evils than it has in the past. The mining industries of the Province require more thought and study and a larger amount of ambition shown than is required to receive the royalties and grant licenses. Something should be done to stimulate the miner and encourage the capitalist, something to ensure a larger amount of success to those engaged in mining. The question may be asked, what shall we do more than has been done already? and the Yankee reply will follow, what has been done? The gentleman signing himself "H." is right when he says "our gold fields as a rule are looked upon by capitalists as shallow and spotty," and I, sir, may safely add that such is the prevailing feeling among the majority of our own miners, but, in justice to our gold fields, I may say they have formed such opinions without any foundation to build upon, and, speaking from personal knowledge, I am safe in stating that there is no man, be he miner or expert, who has ever tested the question of deep mining and a "second strike" in our gold-bearing leads. No fault can be attributed to those who have operated our mines in the past, for in the majority of cases the mines have been abandoned for want of proper machinery to work them. In many mines what is called the "first strike" is worked out, and, accepting the prevailing theory that our mines are shallow, they have been abandoned. And when in months, or even in years after, the capitalist seeking investment enquires about these apparently abandoned districts he finds them deserted, the shafts filled with water and declared exhausted, after having been worked to a depth of 100 or possibly 300 feet.

As your correspondent shows it has been clearly proved in the history of other mining countries that veins are found to carry gold at great depths and have at these enormous depths yielded fabulous returns. No one questions that the gold-bearing veins of Nova Scotia do not reach to great depths, and where the ledge at 200, 300 or 400 feet has been found to be intact and healthy and the formation perfectly clear, can anyone offer a reasonable theory as to why this vein should not be mineralized at any depth, say at 1,000 or even 2,000 feet? And this can be said of the gold fields of Nova Scotia, which have yielded the finest and largest amount per ton of the present known gold fields as far as the present shallow developments show. An experience of over twenty years has shewn me that our people alone will not test the question of deeper and more extensive mining, and we certainly cannot expect foreign capital to do so. Now the question remains as to who shall solve this problem in which our interests are alone materially concerned. Will somebody advance a solution, and open up the vast wealth lying at our feet for development?

Yours, &c.,

B.

COMPRESSED STEEL.—Further tests of the new French treatment of steel for rendering it tough appear to confirm its value, imparting to it also a fineness of grain, an increased hardness and a notable accession of strength to withstand rupture, this effect being most marked in the case of highly carbonated steel, and in this respect the metal is made to resemble tempered steel without being in all points identical with it. The cause of this alteration in physical condition is attributed to the rapid heating and no less rapid cooling of the metal; that is, when the red hot steel is first strongly compressed, which is the peculiar feature of this process, the conversion of the mechanical energy into heat serves to raise the temperature of the entire mass, at the same time that the particles of the metal are more closely cemented together; this effect is followed by a rapid cooling, due to the contact of the plate of the hydraulic press with the surfaces of the metal, and the very close pressure materially increases this conducting effect of the cold metal.

SAFE INVESTMENT.—No safer investment can be found than good mining property. All that is required in the selection of really valuable property is the exercise of that common sense which is required in all business ventures. A man cannot expect to sink a shaft or run a tunnel at random with the certainty of striking mineral. The mere fact that a claim is staked in the mountains of Colorado or New Mexico is no assurance that it has mineral. Indeed it would be just as sensible to locate a claim upon the prairies of Kansas, or in the swamps of Florida, as in many places in these mountains. It is necessary for the man who proposes to locate a claim either to know something about mineral and how and where it is to be found, or to have some one in his employ who does know. It is necessary for the man who is going to buy a mine or to prospect to know something about what he is buying. If he has not the requisite knowledge of minerals and mines he should have some one in his employ who has such knowledge. Let the man who proposes to purchase a property secure the services of a competent and trustworthy miner and expert, and have a critical examination and careful report made, and the purchaser will run no risks of being cheated. It is as safe to buy a mine as it is a horse, provided the same judgment is used in the one purchase as in the other.—*Register Call*,

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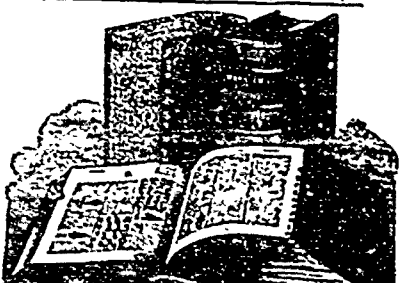
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