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CO-OPERATION IN MINING.

In a thoughtful and frank paper, reprinted in this number of the Canadian Mining Journal, Mr. W. H. Prest analyzes the present condition of gold mining in Nova Scotia, and suggests as a tonic certain forms of co-operation.

"For two generations," says Mr. Prest, "the gold miners of Nova Scotia have struggled, each one for himself. . . . without organization, without sufficient funds, and without that patriotic feeling for the industry we represent, which, once expressed in energy would place gold mining in Nova Scotia in a respected footing. . . . And while we watch our province gold yield is dropping year by year and we are unable to stop it."

Mr. Prest then traces, picturesquely enough, the unrealized dreams that have been indulged in by "editors, politicians and mining men," and evolves the following diagnosis. The causes of the decline, he states, are:

First, not want of capital, but lack of confidence.

Second, want of knowledge and skill in the workmen.

Third, want of funds by the actual owners.

Fourth, want of co-operation between the capitalists and the prospector.

Instances are not lacking all over Nova Scotia of work badly done, of locations foolishly chosen, and of the stoppage of prospecting in the verge of success. As for the larger incorporations, these have uniformly suffered from the fact that while controlled from inside, their financial support had to be sought from outside.

All this being so, Mr. Prest urges co-operative efforts in certain directions and within certain limits. Emphasis is laid first upon the open valuation of mining property as a preliminary to capitalization. "Mere extent of territory counts for little," Mr. Prest wisely asserts, "where the principal criteria in selection are the quantity and the importance of rich 'float.'" The chief points to be considered, therefore, in placing a value upon a Nova Scotian gold property, are as follows:

First, the determination of the quantity of gold-bearing boulders, and the preparation of a plan shewing the distribution of these and of all gold-bearing quartz found. Panning results should also be mapped.

Second, the maximum value and the quantity of rich "float" should be estimated as closely as circumstances will permit. This can be done but roughly; nevertheless, it is thought by Mr. Prest to be of great importance.

Third, the position, character, and size of the drift boulders indicate the character of the vein. Giving due